

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Building stronger, for a better future



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since CAF started operations in 2024 we have helped refugees and the host communities build self-sustaining livelihoods

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CRESS began working in Rhino 8 in 2025 - this is the newest refugee settlement in northern Uganda

WHERE WE WORK

Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement (Ocea & Eden Zones; including Zone 8 Health Post)
Imvepi Refugee Settlement (Zone 1, 2 & 3)
Host communities in Yumbe, Terego, and Madi Okollo
Education support reach: Arua, Koboko, Yumbe, and Moyo



VISION, MISSION & VALUES

Kade Rose, a member of Friendly Group in Mijale



CORE VALUES



Refugee- & Youth-Led | Faith-Based | Community-Centered | Indigenous National NGO
Registered in Uganda as a Company Limited by Guarantee (without share capital)
Registered as an Indigenous National NGO with a 5 years Operation Permit | MOU/
Permission to Operate from the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) in Rhino Camp & Imvepi Refugee Settlements

VISION

Holistically transformed communities living self-sufficient lives

MISSION

Educate and train displaced people with the knowledge and skills to empower them to establish self-sustaining communities.

CORE VALUES

compassion

Serving vulnerable communities with empathy and dignity.

sustainability

Promoting long-term, locally owned solutions.

empowerment

Enabling households to transition from dependency to resilience.

integrity

Upholding transparency, accountability, and ethical stewardship.

continuous learning

Adapting and improving through reflection and evidence.

partnership

Working collaboratively with government, churches, NGOs, and communities.

CHARITABLE OBJECTIVES

The objects for which the company is established are;

- To prevent or provide relief of poverty in Northern Uganda and East Africa by providing grants, items and services to individuals in need and/or charities or other organizations working to prevent poverty.
- To promote education (including social and physical training) of people in Northern Uganda and East Africa in such ways as the members think fit.
- To equip, train and support local lay church members and clergy, and to provide Christian discipleship training where required.
- To improve primary health, trauma and maternal care through training and sponsorship, including the provision of a primary health care clinic.
- To establish or support any charitable trusts, associations or institutions formed for any of the charitable purposes included in these objects.
- To acquire, merge with or enter into any partnership or joint venture arrangement with any other company for any of the objects.
- To do any other lawful thing that is necessary or desirable for the achievement of these objects.

Lulu Emmanuel, Clinical Officer, with some children from Rhino 8



CAF PROGRAMMING PILLARS



*CATT Children's Accelerated Trauma Therapy **RUMPS Reusable Menstrual Pads

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY/ BACKGROUND

Founded on 16 October 2023, CRESS Africa Foundation (CAF) is a refugee- and youth-led indigenous non-profit organization established to respond to the persistent socio-economic vulnerabilities affecting refugee and host communities in Northern Uganda. Since its establishment CAF has responded to the persistent cycles of aid dependence, trauma, unemployment, and limited access to quality education and health affecting refugee and vulnerable host communities. Our integrated development approach equips displaced and marginalised households with the knowledge, skills, psychosocial support, and spiritual formation necessary to build self-sustaining communities.

CAF is duly registered with the Uganda NGO Bureau (Reg. No. INDR170896606NB) with a valid operating permit until 2029. CAF operates from its head office in Arua City, with field offices in Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement, Imvepi Refugee Settlement, and Kerwa Sub County in Yumbe District. Since its establishment, CAF has focused on restoring dignity, building resilience, and promoting self-reliance among displaced populations and vulnerable host communities working in the refugee-hosting districts of Terego, Madi Okollo, Yumbe, and Arua City in West Nile region, Northern Uganda.

CAF works closely with the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), UNHCR, District Local Governments, churches, community structures, and local and international partners to deliver sustainable, locally driven solutions in refugee settlements and host communities.

Pamugun livelihood group in their cabbage garden when Jonathan visited



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Partners, Friends, and Stakeholders,

On behalf of the Board and staff of CRESS Africa Foundation (CAF), I am honoured to share our Annual Report for 2025—a year in which we witnessed, again and again, that dignity can be restored, trauma can be healed, and vulnerable families can rebuild their lives when the right support reaches them at the right time.

CAF was founded on 16 October 2023 as a refugee- and youth-led, faith-based, community-centred indigenous organisation. We exist because displacement is not only about crossing borders—it is about losing stability, identity, hope, and opportunity. In West Nile's refugee-hosting districts, we continue to see persistent cycles of dependency, unemployment, and weakened social systems. Yet we also see something powerful: the resilience of communities when they are equipped with skills, connected to support systems, and treated with dignity.

In 2025, CAF deepened its commitment to working where needs are greatest—across Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement (Ocea and Eden Zones, including Zone 8), Imvepi Refugee Settlement (Zones 1–3), and host communities in Yumbe (Wandi & Kerwa Sub counties), Terego, and Madi Okollo, while supporting education access across Arua, Koboko, Yumbe, and Moyo. We did this in close collaboration with the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), UNHCR, district local governments, churches, community structures, and local and international partners.

In our Resilient Livelihoods Programme, we reached over 2,080 households through an integrated approach that combines climate-smart agriculture, savings-led financial inclusion, and enterprise development. Through 70 Community Savings and Credit Groups (CSCGs), families strengthened their ability to withstand shocks and plan for the future. In total, members mobilised UGX 1.58 billion in savings, accessed 8,366 loans worth UGX 702 million, and built UGX 90.5 million in social funds to protect households during emergencies. Beyond the figures, these outcomes represent mothers starting poultry projects, youth returning to school after successful farming seasons, and families choosing stability over despair.

In education, CAF supported 72 learners across nursery, primary, secondary, vocational, and tertiary levels—ensuring learning continued uninterrupted in a context where economic hardship and displacement regularly push children out of school. We conducted termly school visits, collected report cards and appreciation letters for sponsors, and provided medical and psychosocial support when needed. As multiple education partners withdrew from refugee settlements, CAF supplied scholastic materials to 24 refugee schools, indirectly supporting 27,130 learners—because sometimes a box of chalk and pens is the difference between a day of learning and a day lost.

In health, we strengthened community-based access to care and expanded integrated services that reflect a simple truth: effective healthcare in humanitarian settings must go beyond treatment—it must restore dignity. CAF supported the Rhino Camp Zone 8 Health Post through staffing, essential systems, and supplies. In just one quarter, the Health Post delivered 2,073 outpatient consultations and 1,633 laboratory tests, including malaria diagnosis and treatment for hundreds of patients. We also invested in maternal

and child health, adolescent dignity programming, and preventive health through community women groups.

One of the most profound areas of progress in 2025 was our Children Accelerated Trauma Therapy (CATT) programme. Conflict does not end when a child reaches safety; it often continues inside the mind and body through nightmares, withdrawal, fear, and loss of concentration. This year, CAF screened 760 children for trauma using the CRIES-8 tool, and 606 children completed structured trauma therapy, alongside 68 PTSD awareness sessions in communities and schools. The case stories in this report—children whose trauma scores reduced dramatically after therapy—reflect what is possible when trained counsellors bring structured, compassionate care into fragile humanitarian settings. These are not just “sessions delivered”; they are children returning to school, sleeping again, smiling again, and imagining a future they had stopped believing in. I am deeply grateful to our trained counsellors and the partners who continue to invest in trauma-informed care for refugee children.

CAF's faith-based foundation shapes our commitment to holistic transformation. Through our Evangelism and Discipleship Programme, we invested in hope, belonging, values, and purpose—elements often overlooked but essential for resilience and social cohesion. In 2025, the programme reached 80,512 children, supported 60 Good News Clubs, and trained hundreds of volunteers and disciple-makers. We also strengthened Bible study groups, women fellowship groups, and pastoral care systems that increasingly function independently and support one another.

None of this progress is possible without strong internal systems. In 2025, CAF strengthened its operational capacity by recruiting key staff, expanding field coordination structures, equipping teams with motorcycles, bicycles, smartphones, laptops, and solar-powered field offices, and maintaining clear policies to guide accountability and safeguarding. These investments improved supervision, reporting, staff safety, and service delivery across difficult terrain.

As we celebrate progress, we also recognise the challenges ahead: climate shocks, land constraints, resource limitations in education and health facilities, and the scale of trauma among displaced children. In 2026, CAF will prioritise: strengthening partnerships, expanding field facilitation capacity, improving reporting and evidence systems, scaling trauma-informed care, and deepening sustainable livelihoods pathways that enable real graduation from dependency.

To our Board of Directors, our staff and volunteers, the OPM and district local governments, community leaders, churches, schools, health facilities, and all our partners and donors—thank you. Your trust and collaboration make our work possible. Most importantly, I honour the resilience of the refugees and host communities we serve. Your courage is the reason CAF exists, and your progress is our greatest measure of success.

We invite current and new partners to join us in scaling what works—so that more families can move from survival to self-reliance, and more children can move from trauma to healing and hope.

With gratitude,

Isaac Soro
Executive Director, CRESS Africa Foundation (CAF)



Meet Mutinga Joy

"I'm 18 years old, a lactating mother from South Sudan, and a member of the Lyete Group of Happy and Healthy Mothers and their babies here in Imvepi Refugee Settlement. I want to thank Cress Africa Foundation from the bottom of my heart for bringing this life-changing health education to us starting from June, 2025.

Since arriving in Uganda, we've never had such a powerful and practical training. They taught us how to prevent malaria - a disease that has affected so many of us - and even showed us how to properly hang mosquito nets to protect our families. We received mosquito nets for all mothers and mama kits for pregnant women, which are so important for safe deliveries.

Before this, CRESS had already given us agricultural tools, which helped us grow food and care for our children. These tools are helping us become self-reliant, and now with the health support, we feel even more empowered. It's true what they said - the name of the project is 'Happy and Healthy Mothers and their babies,' and today, I truly feel both happy and healthy.

This project has given me hope. I had to stop school in Senior Three, but now I believe I can go back and continue my education. I dream of becoming like the staff of CRESS Africa Foundation - strong, kind, and committed to helping others. Thank you so much to Lulu Emmanuel, your team and everyone who made this possible. Without your care and support, none of this would have reached us. You've touched our lives in ways we will never forget."

RESILIENT LIVELIHOODS FOR SELF-RELIANT FAMILIES

Livelihoods Programme Annual Narrative – FY2025

Introduction: From Vulnerability to Viable Futures

In 2025, CRESS Africa Foundation (CAF) deepened its commitment to enabling vulnerable refugees and host communities in West Nile to move beyond survival toward sustainable, dignified livelihoods. Operating in Rhino Camp (Ocea and Eden Zones), Imvepi Refugee Settlement, and host communities in Yumbe, Terego, and Madi Okollo districts, CAF reached over **2,080 households** through its integrated Self-Reliance and Resilient Livelihoods programming.

At the heart of the programme was a simple but powerful belief: when families are equipped with practical skills, access to finance, and supportive community systems, they are better able to feed themselves, educate their children, and withstand shocks. In a context marked by land constraints, climate variability, and limited economic opportunities—especially for women and youth—CAF focused on strengthening household resilience through climate-smart agriculture, savings-led financial inclusion, and market-oriented enterprise development.



Practical demonstration on nursery bed preparation during training of lead farmers in Mijale

PROGRAMME APPROACH: Building Resilience At Household Level

CAF's livelihoods work is anchored in a holistic vision of transformation. In 2025, the programme supported households to progress across five interconnected dimensions: access to nutritious food, economic empowerment and asset building, improved health and wellbeing, functional skills development, and strong values and social cohesion.



Before joining the Ngun Kata CSCG, life for **Mary Tabu** was marked by uncertainty. With no stable source of income, meeting her family's daily needs—food, healthcare, and her young son's future—was a constant struggle. Saving money felt impossible when survival came first.

Mary's turning point came when she joined the CSCG supported by CAF. Through regular saving, financial guidance, and peer support, she gradually built savings and was one of the beneficiaries from the **8,366 loans** issued out in 2025. Encouraged to invest for the future, Mary borrowed a loan of **UGX 450,000 (130\$)** to start a poultry

business with **100 birds**.

Today, the income from her poultry project helps Mary provide nutritious food, meet medical expenses, and plan for her child's education. Standing in her poultry house with her three-year-old son, Mary represents what is possible when women are empowered with skills, savings, and opportunity—moving from survival to self-reliance, and building resilience at household level.

Through **70 Community Savings and Credit Groups (CSCGs)**, CAF prioritised women, youth, people with disabilities, and people living with HIV, ensuring inclusive access to skills, finance, and productive assets. Of these groups, **57 were formally registered at sub-county level**, strengthening local ownership and long-term sustainability.



Members of Pamugun Agriculture group in Mijale pictured harvesting their sukumawiki vegetables

CLIMATE- SMART AGRICULTURE: Food Security In A Changing Climate

Food insecurity remains one of the most pressing challenges in refugee and host communities. In response, CAF strengthened households' capacity to produce nutritious food using gender-responsive, climate-smart, and nutrition-sensitive agricultural practices.

During the year, 1,287 CSCG members (69% women) were trained in climate-smart vegetable production, covering nursery establishment, soil management, organic pest control, irrigation, and post-harvest handling. Training was practical and demonstration-based, recognizing that many participants have limited literacy.

As a result:

- 70 group demonstration gardens were established and actively managed by 1,083 members.
- 809 households established 2,060 vegetable beds in their own homesteads.
- Households reported increased access to nutritious foods, reduced malnutrition among children, and additional income from surplus vegetable sales.

CAF also distributed field crop seeds, vegetable seeds, fruit tree seedlings, and farming tools across all project locations. In total, 2,610 fruit trees (mangoes, oranges, and guavas) were planted by 870 households, contributing to long-term food security and environmental restoration.

These interventions transformed small plots of land into productive assets, even in space-constrained refugee settings.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2025

Livelihood Project Agriculture

The aim of our agriculture training is to equip learners with the skills of sustainable organic farming practices that will enable them to improve their families' food security, nutrition and income.

TRAINING FOR
1,287
GROUP MEMBERS
IN CLIMATE-SMART
SUSTAINABLE
AGRICULTURE
79%
FEMALE

IN 2025
809
INDIVIDUAL GARDENS
ESTABLISHED WITH
1,083
WORKING GROUP
GARDENS

INPUTS
& SEEDS FOR
49
GROUPS IN
2025



Poni Jane
of Faith
group
chose
tomatoes
and onion
for her crop



Kale
harvest

TREE
SEEDLINGS
DISTRIBUTED
2,610

INCLUDING GRAFTED MANGO,
ORANGE AND GUAVA TO **870**
GROUP MEMBERS IN RHINO
CAMP, IMVEPI
& MIJALE

TRAINED
83

LEAD FARMERS FROM
29 GROUPS ACROSS
ALL LOCATIONS

RHINO
CAMP
29
MEMBERS
SUPPORTED IN POST-
HARVEST CROP
MANAGEMENT

EMERGENCY
SUPPORT FOR

50

NEW REFUGEES IN
RHINO 8

TRAINING
INSPIRED

32

GROUPS TO MAKE
COMPOST MANURE
PITS WITH PLANT
MATERIAL

Summary of the modules covered during the sustainable climate smart agriculture training.

- Nursery bed establishment and management.
- Agronomy field best practices such as mulching, irrigation, weeding.
- Soil management.
- Crops Pest identification and control.
- Post-harvest handling.
- Soil improvement
- Liquid manure making
- Organic pesticides making.

Kiden Annet – Youth Empowerment Through Enterprise

At just 18 years old, Kiden Annet had dropped out of school due to lack of fees. Through Pamugun CSCG, she received training and chose onion farming as her enterprise. Her successful harvest has given her the means to return to school and renewed hope for her future—demonstrating how livelihoods programming can unlock opportunity for young people.





ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT: Savings, Loans, And Enterprise Growth

Access to finance emerged as a powerful catalyst for household transformation in 2025. Through CSCGs, CAF enabled families to save regularly, access affordable credit, and invest in income-generating activities aligned with local market demand.

By the end of the year:

- **UGX 1.58 billion** was mobilized in savings across **2,003 active members**, the majority of whom were women.
- Members accessed 8,366 loans worth **UGX 702 million, with UGX 557 million (79%) accessed by women.**
- **UGX 90.5 million** was mobilized in social funds, providing a safety net for health emergencies, school fees, funerals, and support to the most vulnerable.

Loans were invested in farming, petty trade, small retail businesses, poultry, boda-boda transport, mobile money services, and asset acquisition, including housing improvements. Importantly, **12 mature CSCGs graduated** from active CAF supervision, demonstrating increased independence and strong governance.

Alongside financial services, CAF invested heavily in capacity building:

- **2,080 members** were trained in business skills, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy.
- **1,186 members** actively engaged in small-scale enterprises by year-end.

Households reported improved income stability, increased savings, better access to education for children, and reduced financial stress.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2025

Livelihood Project Savings Groups

Savings groups act like a community bank. Refugees put their money in and can then ask for loans for business or the needs of their family. They repay over time with interest. The groups also are encouraged to be involved in projects together to raise funds which are distributed yearly.

SUPPORTING

70

LIVELIHOOD GROUPS
IMPACTING 2,080
HOUSEHOLDS

MATURE
GROUPS

12

GROUPS ABOUT 5 YEARS
OLD NOW OPERATE
INDEPENDENTLY

OF
LOANS
TAKEN

79%

WERE TAKEN BY
WOMEN

SUPPORT
& TRAINING FOR

9

CPFs (COMMUNITY
PROCESS FACILITATORS)
TO SUPPORT THE
GROUPS

MEMBERS
TRAINED

935

IN MARKET RESEARCH,
BUSINESS SELECTION,
BUSINESS
MANAGEMENT &
BUDGETING

TOTAL
SAVINGS
£323,281
WITH BUSINESS LOANS
TOTTALLING
£143,903
IN 2025

FORMED &
EQUIPPED

26

NEW GROUPS 10 FOR
THE HAPPY HEALTHY
MOTHERS PROJECT
in IMVEPI

MENTORED

610

IN FINANCIAL LITERACY
ON LOANS MANAGEMENT,
SOCIAL FUND UTILIZATION,
BUDGETING AND
RECORD KEEPING

MEMBERS
IN BUSINESS

1,186

INC. SHOPS, CHARCOAL,
VEGETABLES, HAIR SALON,
MOBILE MONEY, HOTEL,
BIKE TAXI &
PANCAKES

TRAINED

535

IN
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

TRAINED
CRESS STAFF WHO
THEN TRAINED

15 GROUPS IN BUSINESS
PLAN DEVELOPMENT,
5 IN FINANCIAL LITERACY,
3 IN CONFLICT
RESOLUTION, 2 IN
VISION PLANS

GROUPS
MEMBERS ARE

80.5%

FEMALE
3% HAVE A
DISABILITY OR
HIV

Martha Uma.

Martha Uma is a member of Ngun Kata group in Rhino Camp. She has saved 350,000 Ugandan shillings (just over £70) through consistent group participation and has invested in a sewing machine to start a tailoring business.

She said the income from the business will support her children's school fees and enable her to continue saving.

Martha with her sewing machine



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* Savings Groups are also known as Community Savings and Credit Groups CSCGs

DISCIPLESHIP FOR HOPE, HEALING, AND PURPOSE

Evangelism & Discipleship Programme Annual Narrative – FY2025

In 2025, CRESS Africa Foundation (CAF) continued to invest intentionally in the spiritual and moral wellbeing of refugee and host communities through child evangelism and community discipleship across Rhino Camp, Imvepi, Bidi-Bidi, and surrounding host areas.

In settings where families face trauma, loss of hope, idleness among youth, and weakening social structures, CAF's Discipleship Programme provided something deeply needed but often overlooked in humanitarian response: hope, values, belonging, and purpose.

Guided by the strategic objective to nurture spiritually grounded, resilient communities, the programme integrated child evangelism, women and youth fellowships, Bible study groups, pastoral care, and leadership training—strengthening faith communities that increasingly function independently and support one another.

DISCIPLESHIP IMPACT AT A GLANCE – 2025

- **80,512 children** heard the Gospel through Good News Clubs, Sunday Schools, School Ministries, and Holiday Five-Day Clubs
- **12,341 children** committed their lives to Christ
- **60 Good News Clubs, 36 Sunday Schools, 15 School Ministries, 31 Five-Day Holiday Clubs**
- **372 volunteer children workers** trained through Christmas Party Club trainings
- **389 disciple-makers** trained to lead others
- **78 Bible study groups** formed, reaching 11,258 Christians
- **89 women fellowship groups** formed, reaching 12,218 women
- **236 pastoral visits** and **438 counselling sessions** conducted
- **81,216 Christians** reached through community discipleship activities

Children during good news club session attending to the Bible lesson presented by Florence



PROGRAMME APPROACH: Starting With Children, Strengthening The Whole Community

CAF's model recognizes that discipleship that begins with children shapes families, churches, and communities over time.

Through weekly Good News Clubs and Sunday Schools conducted in neutral venues, children from different denominations gathered to learn Scripture, pray, sing, and play together. Volunteer Children Workers (VCWs) were equipped with teaching materials, games, Bibles, and training (Super seminar) to make learning engaging and consistent. Many parents reported visible changes in their children—greater respect, kindness, responsibility, and commitment to church attendance.

In 2025, CAF supported 60 Good News clubs. These are spaces where children learn respect, honesty, obedience, responsibility, and hope for the future.

Sandra Ruth from Wanyange, Rhino Camp, is one of these children.



"My name is Sandra Ruth, and I attend Success Good News Club. I am very grateful to the children's workers for coming to teach us. I have learnt the stories in the Bible, and now I know how to read my Bible. Many times, I read the lovely stories from my Bible to my mum." For Sandra, the Good News Club became more than a weekly gathering. It built her confidence to read, nurtured her love for Scripture, and strengthened her relationship with her mother at home.

Her mother, Anna Annet, has witnessed this transformation firsthand.

"I thank CRESS Africa Foundation for the Good News Club teachings. My daughter has greatly improved since joining. She used to be stubborn. Now her stubbornness has reduced, and she reads Bible stories for me when I am free."

Sandra's story reflects what many parents across Rhino Camp report: children who attend Good News Clubs demonstrate noticeable improvements in behaviour, discipline, respect for parents, and interest in learning. In environments where negative peer influence and idleness can easily shape a child's future, these clubs provide positive direction and mentorship.

School Ministries extended this reach into 15 schools, where thousands of children encountered structured Bible lessons alongside their studies.

Holiday Five-Day Clubs and Christmas Party Clubs became powerful seasonal platforms for deeper engagement, drawing large numbers of children and training hundreds of volunteers to continue the work.



Children being taught the Bible lesson during School Ministry



The DTT Students during Illustration with Isaac Sebit in the middle with Navy blue T-shirt

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY FAITH AND LEADERSHIP

Beyond children's ministry, CAF invested heavily in community discipleship structures:

- Bible study groups meeting weekly across zones
- Women fellowship groups providing mentorship, prayer, and mutual support
- Pastoral visits to homes, the sick, and vulnerable families
- Training of pastors and lay leaders to strengthen local church capacity
- Super Seminars, CYIA and DTT training to equip trainers of Sunday School teachers

These structures restored hope for many adults who had withdrawn from church life due to discouragement, poverty, and trauma.

"Pastors and their spouses are now supporting one another both spiritually and physically."

Youth were also reached through mentorship, sports evangelism, and fellowship activities, addressing rising idleness and risky behaviour such as gold mining.

PRACTICAL SUPPORT THAT ENABLES MINISTRY

CAF provided simple but transformative tools that enabled volunteers and pastors to serve effectively:

- Bibles and hymn books (English and Bari)
- Teaching materials and record-keeping tools
- Reflectors, ministry bags, and bicycles for mobility
- Footballs and skipping ropes for children's engagement
- Support to vulnerable believers, including a wheelchair, a motorcycle for livelihood support, and a house constructed for Mama Agnes

These practical interventions restored dignity and extended the reach of ministry into hard-to-access areas.

LIVES BEHIND THE MINISTRY

MAMA AGNES – a Home of Hope

"Thank you, CRESS Africa Foundation and Caroline Lamb for building a house for me which is now my new home. When the winds blow and dark clouds gather, I no longer fear the rain. I now sleep peacefully, knowing that I am safe and sheltered.

The house you built is not only larger and stronger, but it has also restored my dignity. The bed and mattress you provided help me rest well every night, something I had not experienced in a long time. May God bless you abundantly and increase your resources to continue blessing others like me."



Mama Agnes, Imvepi Refugee Settlement

Good News Club

"My name is Emmanuel Lyete, and I attend Generation Stars Good News Club, Imvepi Refugee Settlement. I am very grateful to the children's workers for coming to teach us in the Good News Club. If I had not attended, I would not have learnt how to pray and the importance of going to church. Now, I have learnt to pray and memorize memory verses; I can go to church every Sunday without being reminded. Thank you so much, CRESS Africa Foundation, for coming every week to teach us in Good news club."



Member of Generation Stars

"I am Stella Maneno, the mother to Emmanuel Lyete, and I live here in Zone 3, Imvepi Refugee Settlement. I thank CRESS Africa Foundation for the Good News Club teachings. My son has greatly improved since joining. He prays at home and moves to church for Sunday school, and children like these who are struggling if they can be supported in their schools, it will make a great impact and bring holistic transformation to them. Am very excited as the mother of my son what he is becoming. If we the parents can be included in the teachings next time, I would very much appreciate"



Stella Maneno, the mother to Emmanuel Lyete

Teacher Training

"I am grateful to have participated in the two-weeks' training program on the dynamics of teacher training for Sunday school teachers from the 15th-26th September, 2025, as a student sponsored by Cress Africa Foundation. The training was comprehensive, covering essential aspects of teacher training, and equipped me with the skills and knowledge to effectively instruct Sunday school teachers. I am excited to embark on this journey of training Sunday school teachers and contributing to the spiritual growth and development of children. I am confident that together, we can make a meaningful difference in our communities." - Isaac Sebit Alafi Michael



Isaac Sebit Alafi Michael at the training

These stories reflect the broader transformation happening quietly across the settlements.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2025

Christian Discipleship



A Good News Club in action

"My name is Gifton Lupai, and I attend Generation Stars Good News Club in Imvepi Refugee Settlement. I am very grateful to the children's workers for coming to teach us in the Good News Club. I have learnt the stories in the Bible, I used this knowledge and passed my RE exams very well. I know how to read my Bible. Thank you so much, for coming every week to teach us in Good News Club."

CHILDREN
REACHED
28,446

IN 60 GOOD NEWS CLUBS, 21,721
CHILDREN IN 36 SUNDAY SCHOOL
CLASSES, 3,990 CHILDREN IN
114 CHRISTMAS PARTY CLUBS
AND 21,798 PUPILS IN 15
SCHOOLS WHERE SCHOOL
MINISTRIES WERE
CONDUCTED

SOME
2,707

CHILDREN GIVING
THEIR LIVES TO
CHRIST

TRAINED
117

VOLUNTEER YOUTH WORKERS IN
3 SUPER SEMINAR WORKSHOPS,
TRAINED 3 VCWs* IN DYNAMICS
OF TEACHERS TRAINING COURSE,
TRAINED 372 VCWs IN 10
CHRISTMAS PARTY TRAINING
WORKSHOPS, 60 VCWs TRAINED
ON SAFEGUARDING &
CHILD PROTECTION.

Volunteer youth
workers after
meeting with bikes
and supplies



Supporting Christian Communities

PRAYER &
COUNSELLING

1,220

FOR EMOTIONAL &
SPIRITUAL
COMFORT

ESTABLISHED

87

FELLOWSHIP
GROUPS FOR
YOUNG
WOMEN

OVER
31,000
IN IMVEPI RECEIVING
DISCIPLESHIP AND
50,000
REACHED IN
BIDIBIDI & HOST
COMMUNITY

FORMED

78

BIBLE STUDY
GROUPS

TRAINED
360

TO LEAD AND
DISCIPLE
OTHERS



Ministry team
in Imvepi

> Counselling and pastoral visits have increased due to alarming issues in the camp.

> Unity among the children of the different tribes as they come together for the children's activities means unity with the parents, schools and the community.

CRESS has continued to support communities in Bidi Bidi and Imvepi camps throughout 2025.

* VCWs are Volunteer Children's/Youth Workers

EDUCATION FOR HOPE AND OPPORTUNITY

INTRODUCTION: Keeping Children in School, Keeping Dreams Alive

In 2025, CRESS Africa Foundation (CAF) strengthened its commitment to ensuring that vulnerable children and youth in refugee and host communities access, remain in, and successfully transition through education.

Across Arua, Koboko, Yumbe, and Moyo, where poverty, displacement, trauma, and weakening school systems continue to push children out of classrooms, CAF's Education Sponsorship Programme served as a steady line of protection and hope for families at risk of losing their children's future to circumstance.

Through sponsorship, mentorship, psychosocial care, and direct support to fragile schools, 72 learners studied uninterrupted across nursery, primary, secondary, vocational, and tertiary levels.

At its heart, the programme is built on a simple truth: when a child stays in school, a family regains hope and a community secures its future.

Nicholas, Otita and Scopas at Joy Early Learning Nursery and Primary School



PROGRAMME APPROACH: Supporting the Whole Child, Strengthening the Whole System

CAF's education model goes beyond paying school fees. In 2025, the programme intentionally supported learners across four critical dimensions:

- Financial access to education through scholarships
- Academic monitoring and mentorship through termly school visits
- Psychosocial and medical support for vulnerable learners
- Practical support to under-resourced refugee schools to sustain learning environments

RISING FROM ASHES TO GRACE

In 2013, Nancy Tiyanu Murye was identified by CRESS while in Primary Four in Ebenezer Primary School, Wudu as a vulnerable child with immense potential but also overwhelming challenges. Living with hearing impairment, Nancy struggled to follow lessons, often feeling left behind in class. For many, this could have marked the end of a dream. For Nancy, it became the beginning of a remarkable journey.

For 13 years, CRESS walked faithfully alongside Nancy through primary school, secondary education, and into tertiary training standing with her through every setback and every breakthrough. When her hearing affected her learning, CRESS provided a hearing aid, restoring not only her ability to hear but also her confidence to thrive. When academic gaps appeared, coaching support ensured she received extra lessons and stayed on track.

In December 2025, Nancy completed a three-year Diploma in Midwifery at Kajo-Keji Health Training Institute, Completing with very good grades. Today, she is living proof that disability, displacement, and hardship do not define destiny.

Nancy now dreams bigger than herself. Beginning January, she plans to serve mothers through safe deliveries at Mundari Hospital in Kajo-Keji, with hopes of later working with NGOs after giving back to her community. She thanked CRESS Africa Foundation and CRESS UK for believing her dreams and potential.

Nancy's journey is one of many waiting to be written. Join us in transforming lives by supporting education, skills training, and hope for vulnerable children and youth. Together, we can turn challenges into opportunities and help more young people rise from ashes to grace.



Nancy

CAF conducted **termly visits to 20 schools**, monitoring the wellbeing and performance of **38 sponsored children** on site, strengthening relationships with teachers and parents, and identifying learning gaps early.

During the year, **62 report cards and appreciation letters** were collected and shared with sponsors, strengthening accountability and connection between sponsors and learners.

EDUCATION IMPACT AT A GLANCE – 2025

- **72 sponsored learners** supported
 - 23 Nursery & Primary | 36 Secondary | 9 Tertiary | 4 Vocational
- **14 candidates** sat for PLE, UCE, and UACE with zero dropouts
- **5 students graduated** from universities and colleges
- **6 learners** received medical support to remain in school
- **8 learners** received trauma counselling (CATT)
- **177 participants** engaged during the CRESS Education Conference
- Scholastic materials distributed to **24 refugee schools**, indirectly supporting **27,130 learners**

Lives Behind the Numbers: Stories of Transformation

On 24th January 2025, we proudly celebrate Beatrice Juan Francis, who has graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Developmental Studies from Gulu University—earning Top Honours!

As one of our CRESS sponsored students, Beatrice's journey has been truly inspiring. Her unwavering dedication, academic excellence, and passion for creating meaningful change have set her apart as a future leader in development. Beatrice is now ready to take on the professional world, armed with the skills, expertise, and vision to make a lasting impact.

Hear what Beatrice says- *"I want to thank CRESS for supporting me throughout my education- from high school to university. My father couldn't afford to pay for all of us at home because we are a large family. CRESS opened the door to my education, and today, as I graduate, I look back with gratitude, knowing that both CRESS and God have been behind my achievement."*

During my three years at university, I have gained the knowledge and skills needed to serve my community. My plan is to return home or to the refugee community, particularly from South Sudan, and provide psychosocial support to youth, women, and children who are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorders caused by the 2016 war.

My dream is to see children, youth, and women live free from the lasting effects of war and other hardships."



Beatrice Juan Francis



Sylvia Poni

Sylvia's story *"My transformation and education journey began when Caroline Lamb came into our lives as a true angel of light. She met me in the village of Liwolo, where I could not speak English and could only express myself through smiles. Yet, she saw in me a bright future I did not know existed. Through CRESS, Caroline connected me with sponsors in the UK. My first sponsors, Elizabeth and Nicolas, took me from the village to a modern private school in Mukono, Uganda. From that moment, my dreams and vision began to take shape. It was then that I first dreamed of becoming a lawyer. Later, by God's perfect will, Pippa Gold became my sponsor — a loving, kind, and generous woman of God. Through CRESS, I have experienced God's love in the most tangible ways. Today, I stand as a graduate in Law — a milestone made possible only by the grace of God and my sponsors' support."*

RESPONDING TO A FADING EDUCATION SYSTEM IN REFUGEE SETTLEMENTS

In 2025, multiple education partners withdrew from refugee settlements, leaving schools without materials, teacher support, or basic learning tools. Attendance dropped sharply, and some children studied under trees or in roof-only classrooms. CAF stepped into this gap by supplying **essential scholastic materials** to 24 schools. Teachers reported that chalk and pens—simple tools—made the difference between halted learning and continued instruction for thousands of children.



The care givers of Imvepi ECD received the scholastic materials in Imvepi

CAF's role is increasingly not only supporting sponsored children, but **stabilizing fragile learning environments** for entire school communities.

HOLISTIC CARE: Beyond Fees

CAF recognizes that children drop out not only because of fees, but because of sickness, trauma, and lack of encouragement.

In 2025, CAF provided:

- Trauma counselling for affected learners
- Medical care for sick students
- Laptops for tertiary students to support research and online learning
- Parent engagement through signed scholarship guidelines
- Education guidance and mentorship during school visits

This approach contributed to improved retention, performance, confidence, and accountability.



Lulu Emmanuel, a CATT counsellor and Coordinator administering CATT to a sponsored child in Arua

Students came together to learn and share their stories and hopes for the future at the 2025 education conference





2024 PRIMARY LEAVING EXAMINATIONS SUCCESS

We are excited to share the amazing success of our CRESS-sponsored pupils in the 2024 Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE)! These incredible young learners have shown us the power of hard work, determination, and the right support system. Here's a look at their phenomenal achievements:

- Jovan Gogo Fred: Division 1 with 5 Aggregates – Exceptional!
- Juan Anne Murye: Division 1 with 9 Aggregates – Brilliant!
- Kenyi Ivan Julious: Division 1 with 12 Aggregates – Amazing!

These bright stars are a true testament to the transformative power of education. With the unwavering support of their teachers, parents, and sponsors, they've taken a huge step toward building brighter futures.

A special thank you to all the generous donors and stakeholders that support our mission. Hear what Gogo Jovan says:

"My name is Gogo Jovan, and I want to thank God for my success in the 2024 PLE results, where I scored 5 Aggregates. I know this achievement would not have been possible without the school fees support from CRESS. When I was in Primary Three, I fell seriously ill and had to receive a blood transfusion at Moyo hospital. Curious about the process, I asked my parents how it worked. From that day on, I became determined to study hard—especially in Biology—so I could understand how blood transfusions work. My dream is to become a doctor and help sick people receive life-saving blood transfusions. Once again, thank you, CRESS, for paying my school fees. I am committed to working even harder in secondary school with your support so that I can achieve my goal of joining medical school."

ACHIEVEMENTS 2025

Education Sponsorship

PRIMARY
& SECONDARY
EDUCATION FOR

53

REFUGEE
STUDENTS

PRIMARY
LEAVERS EXAMS
TAKEN & PASSED

3

IN 2025

EDUCATION
CONFERENCE
INSPIRING

177

STUDENTS

ENABLING

4

WITH
VOCATIONAL
TRAINING

UGANDAN
CERTIFICATES OF
EDUCATION* TAKEN

11

240 BOXES
OF SCHOOL
CHALKS AND 24 BOXES
OF PENS TO 24 REFUGEE
SCHOOLS SUPPORTING

27,130

REFUGEE CHILDREN IN
IMVEPI & RHINO
CAMP

SUPPORTING

9

THROUGH FULL
TIME TERTIARY
EDUCATION

GRADUATION
FOR

5

TERTIARY
STUDENTS



RUBA COMFORT EXCELS

Ruba Comfort Moses, a refugee girl from Rhino Camp, shows how education sponsorship can transform lives. She was among three learners supported by CRESS to sit for the Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE) this year.

Earlier in the year, Ruba's mock exam results were discouraging, and limited resources threatened to derail her education. Her mother could not afford coaching or textbooks for exam preparation. CRESS responded, covering extra classes and learning materials. Ruba committed herself fully to her studies, working harder than ever. Her determination paid off when the results were released, showing an outstanding first grade that surprised her teachers, family, and community.



Isaac Kuga completed his vocational skills training achieving a Certificate in Graphics and Design. He told us, *"Before the training, I had little hope of earning a sustainable income or contributing meaningfully to my community. But through this vocational programme, I gained hands-on skills in branding, poster design, photo editing, business cards, digital art, and social media content creation.*

Today, I am equipped not only with technical knowledge but also with confidence and creativity. I have already started designing fliers and logos for local businesses within the settlement, earning a small but growing income. My dream is to open a mini-design studio where other youth can also learn and work. I'm thankful to CRESS Africa Foundation and my sponsor for believing in me. You've given me a tool that will feed me for a lifetime."

*PLE Primary Leaving Examination

**UCE Uganda Certificate of Education equivalent to GCSEs

HEALTH PROGRAMME

Restoring Dignity, Healing Trauma, and Strengthening Community Health Systems

In 2025, CRESS Africa Foundation (CAF) deepened its commitment to ensuring that refugees and vulnerable host communities in West Nile not only access healthcare, but experience healing, dignity, and restored wellbeing.

Operating in Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement, Imvepi Refugee Settlement, and surrounding host communities in Terego, Madi Okollo, Yumbe, and Arua districts, CAF delivered an integrated Health Programme combining trauma therapy, primary healthcare, maternal and child health services, adolescent health support, and community-based preventive health.

This year's health results tell a powerful story: where children overcame deep trauma, mothers accessed safer care, girls stayed in school, and remote communities regained access to lifesaving primary health services.

Midwife, Asaba, with a patient in Rhino 8



CHILDREN ACCELERATED TRAUMA THERAPY (CATT)

Healing Invisible Wounds in Refugee Children

Conflict leaves more than physical destruction. It leaves invisible wounds—memories of violence, loss, fear, and displacement that follow children long after they reach safety. In 2025, CRESS Africa Foundation (CAF) expanded its Children Accelerated Trauma Therapy (CATT) programme across Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement and surrounding communities. Through structured trauma therapy delivered by trained counsellors, hundreds of children began processing experiences that had once overwhelmed them.

CATT PROGRAMME RESULTS – 2025

- **760 children screened** for trauma using the CRIES-8 tool
- **606 children completed structured CATT therapy sessions**
- **68 community PTSD awareness sessions conducted**
- **Significant improvements reported in emotional stability, sleep patterns, school participation, and social interaction**

Behind these numbers are children whose lives were interrupted by war but restored through timely psychosocial care.

The stories below represent just a few of the many children who began their journey from trauma to healing through the CATT programme.

Z'S STORY - From Despair to a Dream

Age 13 | Rhino Camp Zone 8 Refugee Settlement

Z's life began in displacement. She was born in a refugee camp in Ethiopia in 2013 while her parents were fleeing conflict. Later, her family moved to Khartoum, Sudan, where for a short time life felt stable. Z remembers a home filled with siblings and the presence of a father who worked tirelessly to provide for them.

But in 2022, war shattered that life. One morning, her father left for work. Z went to school. He never returned. To this day, the family does not know whether he is alive or dead. In the months that followed, Z and her family fled across borders—from Sudan to South Sudan, then eventually to Uganda. Along the way she witnessed scenes no child should ever see.

"I saw dead bodies on the road," she recalls quietly. "Some were already decomposing."

By the time the family arrived in Rhino Camp Zone 8 Refugee Settlement, Z carried deep emotional scars.

Trauma Symptoms Although physically safe, Z struggled to adjust. She experienced:

- Severe nightmares about her missing father
- Emotional withdrawal and isolation
- Loss of appetite
- Persistent fear and hopelessness

When she was screened using the CRIES-8 trauma assessment, Z scored 38 out of 40, indicating severe post-traumatic stress symptoms.



Z during her early therapy sessions at Rhino Camp Zone 8 Health Post

CATT Intervention

Z began structured trauma therapy through the CATT programme delivered by Lulu Emmanuel, an ACTI-UK trained CATT counsellor at the Zone 8 Health Post.

The first session was extremely emotional. Z cried uncontrollably as painful memories resurfaced.

But gradually, session by session, something began to change. Through five structured therapy sessions, Z slowly regained emotional stability.

One day she said something that deeply moved her counsellor: "I want to study very hard and become a medical doctor." At the end of therapy, Z's CRIES-8 score dropped from 38 to 2, demonstrating remarkable psychological recovery. To help remove immediate barriers, her counsellor supported her school registration and tuition. Today, Z is back in school.

Her smile has returned—and with it, her dream.



Z returning to school after completing CATT therapy

J'S STORY - From Unspeakable Trauma to Healing

Aged 10 | Rhino Camp Zone 8 Refugee Settlement

J's childhood was shaped by violence long before she reached Uganda.

Her family's journey—from DR Congo to Sudan and back again—was driven by repeated conflict.

But the most devastating moment of J's life occurred during an attempted escape from rebel forces controlling their community. At only seven years old, she witnessed the brutal killing of her father. The trauma of that moment remained deeply embedded in her mind.

When the family finally escaped and reached Uganda in 2025, they were physically safe—but emotionally shattered.

Living with Trauma

In Rhino Camp Zone 8, J struggled to cope with the memories she carried.

Neighbours noticed troubling signs:

- Frequent nightmares & Flashbacks of violence
- Speaking to someone unseen
- Severe fear triggered by loud sounds

When assessed using the CRIES-8 trauma screening, J scored 40 out of 40—the highest possible score. This indicated extremely severe trauma symptoms.



J washing utensils without soap at her home in Rhino Camp Zone 8

Healing Through CATT J began structured trauma therapy through the CATT programme.

Across seven therapy sessions, gradual changes emerged:

- Nightmares became less frequent, Sleep improved, Flashbacks reduced
- Hallucinations stopped
- Emotional stability returned

At the end of therapy, J's CRIES-8 score dropped to 0. A complete recovery on the screening scale.

During her final session, J quietly asked her counsellor a simple question:

"Can I go to school?" Her counsellor immediately supported her school registration, tuition, and learning materials. Today J is enrolled in Primary Three. She laughs again. She plays. She learns.

Her mother is also receiving counselling support as part of the programme.

J's story demonstrates how timely trauma intervention can transform a child's future.

G'S STORY - Rebuilding Hope After Loss

Age 12 | Rhino Camp Zone 8 Refugee Settlement

G grew up in displacement. His father died during the conflict in Sudan before G had the chance to truly know him. "If I could ask God for one thing," G says quietly, "it would be to bring my father back." As the oldest child in a family of three, G felt responsible for helping his struggling mother care for the household.



G and his mother outside their home in Rhino Camp

When the family arrived in Rhino Camp, life was extremely difficult. Food was scarce, the children were not in school, and stress weighed heavily on the family. G became withdrawn and quiet.

Trauma Support Through Therapeutic Play

G began receiving trauma-informed support through structured therapeutic play sessions. Through storytelling and guided play, he slowly began expressing emotions he had kept inside. "As I tell my story while we play," he explains, **"the sadness slowly goes away."**

Over time, G mood improved.

Recognising the importance of restoring normal childhood experiences, his counsellor also supported his school enrolment. Today G attends school and speaks confidently about his future.

"I want to become one of the best doctors in South Sudan."

Acknowledgement

These stories were documented with the informed consent of the children and their guardians.

CAF expresses deep appreciation to ACT International UK for supporting trauma counselling training and to the dedicated counsellors serving refugee communities. Their commitment is restoring dignity, resilience, and hope for children who have experienced the unimaginable.

Adult Trauma Teaching session on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)



ADOLESCENT HEALTH AND DIGNITY: REUSABLE MENSTRUAL PADS (RUMP'S)

CAF trained 154 adolescent girls in Imvepi Secondary School and Rhino Camp Zone 8 to produce reusable menstrual pads.

This simple intervention had profound impact: girls reported reduced absenteeism from school, increased confidence, and improved menstrual hygiene. The trainings were combined with psychosocial support, creating safe spaces for girls to discuss health and wellbeing openly.

COMMUNITY WOMEN GROUPS: Happy & Healthy Mothers Project

Through 10 community women groups, CAF reached 300 mothers with health education, essential medicines, mosquito nets, and maternal support. These groups became platforms for shared learning on malaria prevention, safe motherhood, nutrition, and hygiene.

For many mothers, this was the first time they felt supported not just medically—but socially and emotionally.

A STORY OF HEALING: A Child's Journey from Trauma to Hope

One of the children enrolled in CAF's CATT programme had a CRIES-8 trauma score of 38/40. He was withdrawn, unable to concentrate in class, and frequently distressed. After completing the CATT sessions, his score reduced to 2/40. His teachers observed that he began participating in class, interacting with peers, and showing interest in learning again.

His transformation reflects the experience of hundreds of children who, through CAF's trauma-informed care, regained the ability to live as children—not as victims of their past.



Group Photo after teaching - Happy & Healthy mothers Imvepi

ACHIEVEMENTS 2025

Health Programme



Making RUMPS** left and below Nurse Bethy with patients in Rhino 8



In 2025 we supported a clinic in Koboko and then from October in Rhino 8. We also supported maternal health and RUMPS** training. The CATT* team work remotely in the villages near where each counsellor lives.

MIDWIFE SUPPORT FROM THE CLINIC

"My name is Huda Sumbua. I'm 31 years old, a proud Ugandan and one of the pregnant mothers in my final weeks pre-delivery. I belong to the United Women Group under the 'Happy, Healthy Mothers project' here in Imvepi refugee settlement.

This afternoon, we received mosquito nets and Mama Kits, and were taught how to use them properly - including how to hang the nets to protect ourselves and our babies from malaria. These teachings were so practical and empowering. I'm deeply grateful for this support.

Before today, I was so worried. As my delivery date approached, I didn't know where I would get the necessary supplies for my unborn baby. But God answered my prayer through this project. Receiving a Mama Kit at this moment is a blessing I will never forget. Things are not easy right now - essential supplies are hard to come by - but I feel incredibly lucky to be part of this group of Happy and Healthy Mothers."

IN RHINO
CRESS STAFF SAW
2,073
MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH FOR
315
LAB TESTING FOR
1,633

RUMPS
TRAINING FOR
154
IN SCHOOLS &
RHINO 8

HAPPY
& HEALTHY
MOTHERS PROJECT
300
MOTHERS REACHED,
240 MOSQUITO NETS,
55 MAMA KITS, 150
IRON, DEWORMING &
MALARIA GIVEN



Left: Huda Sumbua

CATT*

Children Accelerated Trauma Therapy (CATT) is a structured, evidence-based trauma intervention for children aged 6–18 years experiencing Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Eligibility requires a CRIES-8 score of 17/40 and above, with recovery typically achieved within 2–6 sessions.

Our trained CATT* Counsellors continue their valuable work de-traumatising child refugees and the host community, in rural Northern Uganda

**RUMPS Reusable Menstrual Pads

*CATT Children's Accelerated Trauma Therapy

CHILDREN
TREATED WITH CATT
606
CHILDREN SCREENED CHILDREN COUNSELLLED
760 466
CATT FOR STUDENTS
8



PTSD
AWARENESS
SESSIONS
68
IN 2025

TRAUMA
THERAPY
7
LOCAL COUNSELLORS
WORK WITH TRAUMATISED
CHILDREN
6 NEW BICYCLES
6 PHONES
PROVIDED

31

HUMAN RESOURCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Strengthening Systems, Supporting People, and Enabling Programme Delivery

In 2025, CRESS Africa Foundation (CAF) continued to invest deliberately in the systems, people, and operational structures that make quality programme delivery possible. Behind every health outreach, every savings group, every school visit, and every community training is a team of committed staff supported by functional systems, clear policies, and enabling logistics.

The Human Resource and Administration function played a central role in ensuring that CAF's growing programmes in Health, Livelihoods, Education, and Child Protection were delivered by motivated staff working in safe, well-equipped environments across both head office and field locations.

BUILDING THE TEAM TO MATCH THE VISION

As CAF expanded its Health Department and field coordination structures, the organisation recruited key personnel to strengthen service delivery in Imvepi and Rhino Camp. In 2025 alone, CAF recruited eight new staff, including a Lead Community Programme Facilitator (CPF), Health Officer, Laboratory Assistant, Enrolled Nurse, Enrolled Midwife, Accountant, Cook, and Watchman.

By the end of the year, CAF had a workforce of:

- 25 payroll staff (8 females, 17 male)
- 7 CATT counsellors supporting trauma therapy services
- 10 Village Child Workers (VCWs) supporting community child protection
- 8 Village Health Team members (VHTs) supporting community health outreach
- Volunteers and interns supporting programme implementation

This diverse staffing structure reflects CAF's integrated programming model and community-based approach.

Rhino camp team



CREATING A SUPPORTIVE WORK ENVIRONMENT

CAF recognises that staff wellbeing directly influences programme quality. Throughout the year, the organisation provided:

- Daily **breakfast and lunch** for staff
- Safe drinking water, airtime, data, and access to daily news
- Functional kitchen, mini store, and expanding office garden supplying vegetables for staff meals
- A clean and well-maintained compound supported by newly procured equipment

Fruit trees planted in previous years began bearing fruit, and a small poultry project was initiated at the office to supplement staff welfare and demonstrate practical livelihoods.

EQUIPPING FIELD TEAMS FOR EFFECTIVE SERVICE

To ensure field teams operate effectively in remote refugee settlements and host communities, CAF invested in practical logistics:

- **Two new motorcycles** for Lead CPFs in Imvepi and Rhino Camp
- **Bicycles for all CPFs** to ease community coordination
- **Nine smartphones** for digital reporting
- **Two laptops** for field coordination offices
- Solar power installation, water filters, standby power banks, and guest house access for all field offices

These investments significantly improved mobility, reporting, supervision, and staff safety.

STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE, COMPLIANCE, AND STAFF MANAGEMENT

CAF operated under five key organisational policies in 2025: HR Policy, Child Protection Policy, Procurement Policy, Privacy & Data Protection Policy, and a Financial Policy.

Weekly and monthly coordination structures were maintained through:

- **Weekly staff management meetings**
- **Quarterly Lead CPF administrative meetings**
- **An Education conference connecting parents, children and their sponsors**
- **Quarterly reflection staff engagement meetings**

CAF also maintained full legal compliance as a registered Indigenous NGO under the Ministry of Internal Affairs and operated **under active MOUs with Terego, Yumbe, and Madi Okollo District Local Governments.**

OPERATIONAL ASSETS AND TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT

CAF maintained **six operational motorcycles supporting both head office and field operations.** Regular servicing, fueling, and major repairs ensured reliability for programme delivery across difficult terrain. Despite this, transport limitations remained a key operational challenge due to programme expansion and long-distance outreach demands.

CRESS' 2025 strategy aims to help tackle the underlying causes of poverty and social injustice, as part of global efforts to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**1 NO
POVERTY**



In the Livelihood Groups trained in agriculture, vegetables are grown and excess harvest sold at the markets. This income, however small, helps families enormously and is used for school fees and vital medicines. Once immediate expenses are met, group members then usually start building/renovating their houses, and start investing in their small businesses, which gives a level of financial security.

The 70 Livelihood Groups also help break the cycle of poverty by delivering loans, money and skills training to their 2,080 members, representing over 16,500** within their households, which in turn provides them with financial security and the ability to afford family needs.

We gave 154 refugee women RUMPS* training meaning they can save money on costly disposable menstrual pads and they can continue their lives at school and work.

**2 ZERO
HUNGER**



CRESS aims to increase food security through its Livelihood groups and agriculture training. Our training focuses on sustainable climate smart agriculture using organic regenerative practices such as composting, tree planting and soil conservation. Successful growing of off- season crops have improved nutrition.

Planting fruit and other tree species for garden and field protection enhances resilience and food security, with over 11,000 trees now planted. The species mix includes quick maturing papaya, nutrient rich avocado and families are now picking fruits.

Selling excess fruit, vegetables and crops provides income for all 1,083 trained group members and their families. This provides increased food security for over 8,664** individuals.

Business support offered to farmers and other small businesses means money is also available to buy food during dry seasons.

**3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING**



In 2025, CRESS funded a Healthcare Clinic in Koboko which treated refugees and the host community. 4 members of that team then ran the clinic in the new refugee settlement Rhino 8 seeing 2,073 people in 69 days. Malaria, typhoid, peptic ulcers, intestinal and urinary tract infections were most commonly seen in the clinic. 986 malaria tests were completed with 384 being positive.

300 Mosquito nets were distributed and mothers trained in malaria prevention, family spacing, water sanitation and hygiene. 150 received iron, de-worming and malaria tablets.

Our CATT programme helped 606 children cope with difficult life situations.

Well-being is greatly improved by the Livelihood Groups. Members feel a huge sense of belonging and hope which was previously lacking.

CRESS prefers to talk about our contribution to change, rather than claiming our work alone led to any given change.

*Education Response Plan for Refugees and Host Communities in Uganda (2018-2022) - www.edu-links.org

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



CRESS education sponsorship programme has supported young people in the refugee camps to access education including 9 students in tertiary education and 4 in vocational training. 59 children have been supported to attend primary school and secondary level.

In 2025 CRESS has also supported 2 staff members to continue their education through night classes enabling them to fulfil their potential.

Continuing training for our staff and volunteers this year has included our CPFs, Lead Farmers and Youth Workers who then pass their knowledge on in the local language to members of the Livelihood Groups and Good News Clubs.

5 GENDER EQUALITY



80.5% registered Livelihood Groups members are female and this year we started our Happy Healthy Mothers Project. Group members have been taught skills to improve their nutrition and financial security, enabling them to increase levels of empowerment and equality to become a force for change in their communities. 1,651 have been able to access loans from their groups and 1,001 women are engaged in business.

CRESS has supported women via the primary healthcare clinic outreach maternity services. Our field midwife has delivered support and knowledge in the field to pregnant women to keep them healthy during their pregnancy and birth and to help them consider child spacing in their families.

CRESS has always seen good gender balance in its education sponsorship. Currently, 33 out of 62 of our sponsored students are female.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Through the 70 Livelihood Groups, CRESS has helped 1,186 group members to set up and develop their own businesses and others involve themselves in the group businesses.

Individual businesses vary from shop-keeping to tailoring, from making charcoal to growing food and they all generate their own income which can then be spent locally to improve their economy.

As a group, they can often build larger businesses, these include buying and renting grain grinding mills, hire of furniture, computer hire and larger shops.

Our education support has also encouraged vocational qualifications meaning refugees have new skills which have lead to better work prospects.



ORGANISATION INFORMATION

Board Members	Nicholas Kalyebara Nanyonjo Resty Vincent Lubang Atimango Kevin Anthony Belchambers Isaac Soro	Board Chairperson Vice Chair & Director Health Board Secretary Director Finance Cress UK Trustee representative ED- Cress Africa Foundation
Registered Office	Anyafio Central, Mvara Arua Hill, Arua City- Uganda P.O Box 340461 Arua Tel: (256) 784544628	
Principal Place of Business	Hospital Cell, Awongo close, Central Division, Arua City	
Vision	Holistically transformed communities living self- sufficient lives.	
Mission	To educate and train displaced people with the knowledge and skills to empower them to establish self-sustaining communities	
Independent Auditors	FBO Partners, Certified Public Accountants P.O. Box 9962 Kampala, Uganda Tel: 256-393-215-136 : 256-200-925-252 Email: admin@fbo-partners.com fbopartners@gmail.com	
Principal Bankers	Equity Bank Arua branch	



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Report on the Audit of Financial statement

Opinion

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements for Cress Africa Foundation for the year ended 31 December 2025 are presented fairly in all material respects in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and the Organization's accounting policies.

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Cress Africa Foundation (a non-profit organization), which comprise the statements of financial position as at 31 December 2025, the statements of income and expenditure for the year ended, the statement of cash flows, statement of changes in fund balance for the year ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibility under those standards is further described in the Auditors' responsibility for Audit of financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the organization in accordance with the International Standards Board for Accountants' code of ethics for professional accountants (IESBA Code), together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Uganda, and we have fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to accounting policy Note 10.2 (a) of the financial statements, which describes the basis of preparation. The financial statements are prepared to assist the Board of Directors in reporting on compliance with the laws and regulations of Uganda. Our opinion is not modified in this respect.

Other Information

The Management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the Management's report, but does not include the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information, and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objective is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or taken together, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. As part of an audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

As part of ISA 700 (Revised), we also carry out the following activities

- a) Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.
- b) Obtain an understanding of internal control, relevant to the audit to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not to express an opinion on the effectiveness of the organization's internal controls.
- c) Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosure made by management.
- d) Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and Based on the audit evidence obtained whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the organization's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the disclosures in the financial statements, or such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditors' report.

However, future events or conditions may cause the Organization to cease to continue as a going concern.

- e) Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentations.
- f) We communicate with those charges with governance regarding, among other matters the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that are identified during the audit.



- g) We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence and where applicable related safeguards.
- h) From the matters communicated with those charged with governance, we determined those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. We describe these matters in our auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when in extremely rare circumstances, we determine that a matter should not be communicated in our report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

Report on other legal and Regulatory Requirements

- a) Cress Africa Foundation duly submitted the annual progress reports together with the financial reports in the format required.
- b) CAF has submitted the required documentation to the NGO bureau, and any pending requirements are being handled by the Cress Africa Foundation.
- c) Compliance with NSSF and Income Tax Act.
There were no instances of non-compliance with the NSSF Act.

We report to you that we have obtained all the information and explanations, which, to the best of our knowledge and belief, were necessary for our audit.

In our opinion, proper books of account have been kept by Cress Africa Foundation, so far as appears from our examination of those books, Cress Africa Foundation has complied with the funding terms and conditions and maintained adequate internal controls.

The engagement partner responsible for the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is **CPA Bernard Fred Ochan –P0126**

FBO PARTNERS

Certified Public Accountants
Kampala, Uganda

CPA Bernard Fred Ochan - P0126

Date: _____



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Assets	Note	Dec-25 UGX	Reinstated Dec - 24 (UGX)	Dec-24 UGX
Non-Current Assets				
Property and Equipment	11.8	92,712,966	78,718,000	-
Total Non-current assets		92,712,966	78,718,000	-
Current assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	11.5	119,125,891	188,352,730	188,352,730
Prepayments	11.7	11,817,000	26,217,000	26,217,000
Total current assets		130,942,891	214,569,730	214,569,730
Total Assets		223,655,857	293,287,730	214,569,730
Reserves and Liabilities				
Accumulated Fund	9.0	211,474,444	285,263,955	214,440,894
		211,474,444	285,263,955	214,440,894
Liabilities	11.5	12,181,413	8,023,775	128,835
Total Reserves & Liabilities		223,655,857	293,287,730	214,569,729

The Financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on2026 and signed on its behalf by

.....
Executive Director

.....
Board Chairperson



STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	Note	Budget 2025 UGX	Actual 2025 UGX
Revenue			
Donation From Cress - UK	11.2	<u>1,263,710,065</u>	<u>1,099,149,256</u>
Total Revenue		<u>1,263,710,065</u>	<u>1,099,149,256</u>
Expenditure			
Administrative Cost	11.3	533,677,456	548,146,367
Program Costs	11.4	<u>701,415,610</u>	<u>624,792,400</u>
Total Expenditure		<u>1,235,093,066</u>	<u>1,172,938,767</u>
Net Surplus/(Deficit)		<u>28,616,999</u>	<u>(73,789,511)</u>

STATEMENT OF CASHFLOW

	Dec-25 UGX	Reinstated Dec-24 UGX	Dec-24 UGX
Cash generated from/(used in) operating activities			
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year	(73,789,511)	284,823,560	214,000,500
Adjustment for:			
Depreciation	24,936,284	14,552,000	-
Working capital;			
Decrease/ (Increase) in prepayments	14,400,000	(26,217,000)	(26,217,000)
Decrease/Increase in current liabilities	4,157,638	8,023,775	128,835
Net cash flows used in operating activities	<u>(30,295,589)</u>	<u>281,182,335</u>	<u>187,912,335</u>
Cash generated from/ (used in) investing activities			
Acquisition of Property and Equipment	(38,931,250)	(93,270,000)	-
Net cash flows used in investing activities	<u>(38,931,250)</u>	<u>(93,270,000)</u>	<u>-</u>
Cash generated from/ (used in) financing activities			
Deferred Income	-	-	-
Net cash generated from financing activities	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net (Decrease) / Increase in cash and cash equivalents	<u>(69,226,839)</u>	<u>187,912,335</u>	<u>187,912,335</u>
Movement in cash and cash equivalents			
At the start of the year	188,352,730	440,395	440,395
Net (Decrease) / Increase in cash and cash equivalents	(69,226,839)	187,912,335	187,912,335
Cash and cash equivalents as at the year-end	<u>119,125,891</u>	<u>188,352,730</u>	<u>188,352,730</u>



STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE

	Accumulated Fund UGX	TOTAL UGX
As at 01 January 2025	214,440,895	214,440,895
Capitalized assets	93,270,000	93,270,000
Depreciation for Capitalized Assets	(14,552,000)	(14,552,000)
Reinstated PAYE & NSSF Payable	(7,894,940)	(7,894,940)
Reinstatement Bal as at 01 Jan 2025	285,263,955	285,263,955
Deficit for the Year	(73,789,511)	(73,789,511)
As at 31 December 2025	<u>211,474,444</u>	<u>211,474,444</u>
As at 01 January 2024	440,395	440,395
Surplus for the year	214,000,500	214,000,500
As at 31 December 2024	<u>214,440,895</u>	<u>214,440,895</u>



*We would like to thank all our
supporters, donors and stakeholders for their
support in 2025.*