SMART COMMUNITIES COALITION
MARKET PROFILE

RWAMWANJA SETTLEMENT

Rwamwanja refugee settlement is located in Uganda's western Kamwenge District. The settlement covers an area of approximately 127 km², and encompasses a number of small host villages.

Rwamwanja's refugee population is around 78,000, comprised mostly of refugees from the DRC. Originally established in 1964 but closed in 1995, it was reopened in 2012 to accommodate refugees from DRC's North and South Kivu provinces. The Ugandan population of Kamwenge District is around 430,000. [1]

This market profile seeks to inform businesses and entrepreneurs of the opportunities and challenges of operating in Kamwenge District. The references cited here can serve as resources for further market analysis.

Rwamwanja is located in Toro region, western Uganda.

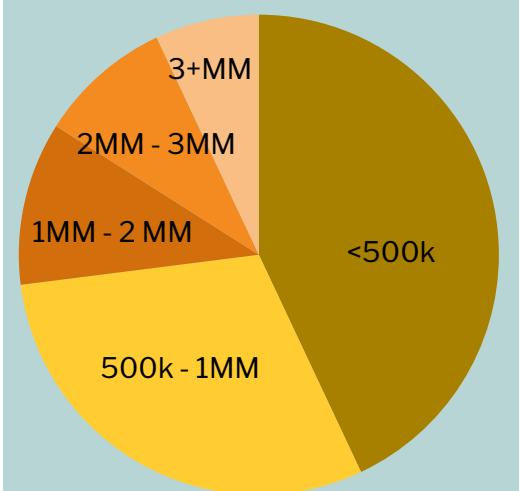## Income and Expense

Refugee expenditure:
- 59% live on less than UGX 2,000 per day. [2]

Refugee employment:
in southwestern Uganda: [2]
- 37% farm their own land
- 25% are self-employed
- 30% are unemployed or out of the labor force

Top sources of household cash: [2]
- None
- Humanitarian aid   ⎤ ~20% each
- Agricultural wages   ⎦
- Casual labor   ⎤ ~10% each
- Sale of cereals   ⎦
- Sale of cooking fuel   ⎤
- Self-employed   ⎥
- Sale of fruit/veg   ⎥ 1-4% each
- Petty trade   ⎥
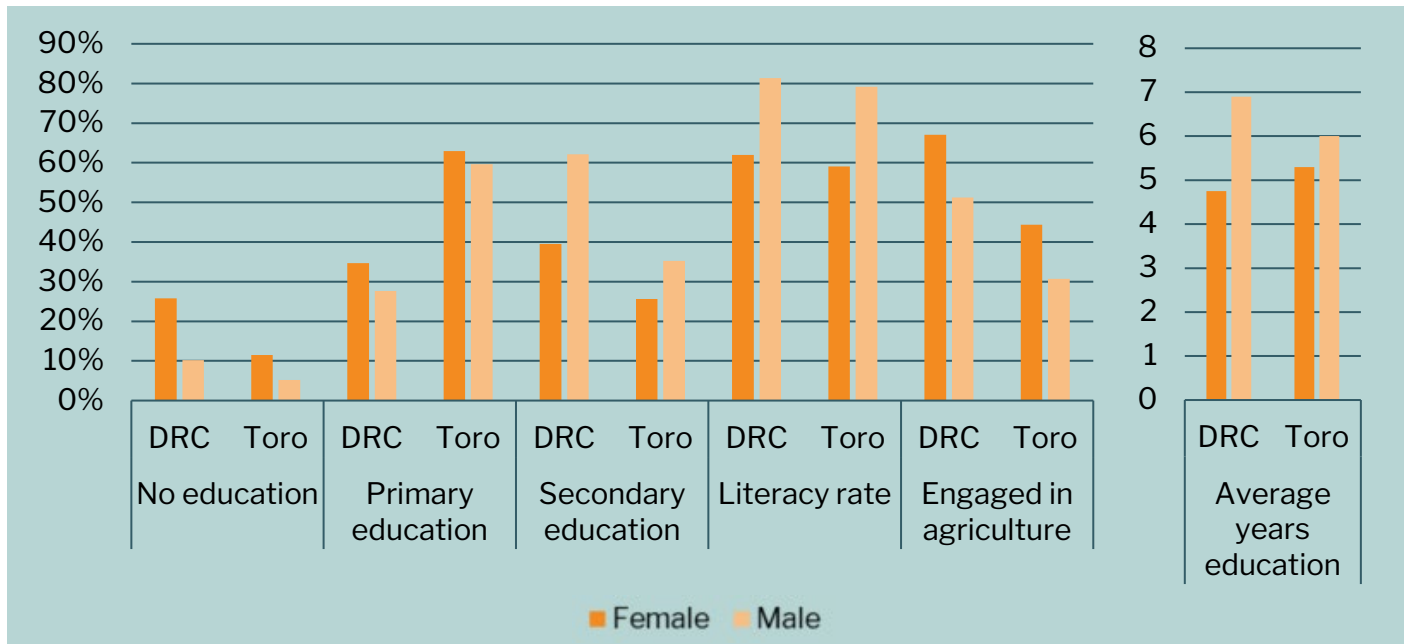- Business   ⎦

Annual income for refugee households (UGX) [6]

Business activity
- Kataryeba, the main market for Rwamwanja, counts over 200 shops. [3]
- Only 11% of the businesses in Kataryeba are less than one year old. [3]
- Business activities in the settlement include retail shops, beauty salons, bakeries, hotels, restaurants, workshops, and grain milling. [4]
- Several agro-processors and small businesses are also located near the UNHCR basecamp. [4]
- Two commercial banks operate in Kamwenge: Post Bank and Finance Trust. A number of SACCOs and farming cooperatives are also active. [5]

Education and Skills

Indicators of educational attainment, literacy, and agricultural skills. Statistics presented for DRC are averaged for North and South Kivu provinces. [9] [8]

Agriculture

Refugees are provided with plots of land for farming, and are highly integrated into the host economy. [5] The official allocated plot size for refugees in Rwamwanja is 2500 m². [6] Though actual plot sizes vary.

- In Kamwenge, just over 15% of refugees have access to between 0.5 – 1 acres, just over 40% access less than 0.5 acres, while around 40% have no access to land at all. [2]
- While 80% of refugees report sourcing food from markets and gifts or aid, only about 30% of refugees consume home-grown food. [2]

Kamwenge Districts's main economic outputs are agricultural, principally banana, but also fish and maize.

Energy [4]

Grid access

Uganda's Rural Electrification Agency (REA) is currently undertaking grid extension into the northwestern part of Rwamwanja. In coordination with REA, Power Africa has identified 8 potential mini-grid sites in areas of the settlement that will not be covered by grid extension.

REA grid expansion
- Villages: Mukole, Nkoma, Katalyeba, and Rwencwera
- Approximate households: 2,000

Potential mini-grid sites
- Villages: Kyempango, Mahani, and Ntenungi
- Approximate households: 2,600

Standalone solar

- Small solar systems for lighting, from around 10 – 100 W, are found throughout the settlement. These are component-based systems, rather than branded solar home kits.
- PV components and solar lanterns are sold through retail shops within the settlement.

Internet and Mobile

Public connectivity [7]

Observed access

- Spotty MNO coverage creates a "patchwork of quality" that varies from operator to operator across the settlement.
- Disparity observed between the quality of service in basecamp and poorer quality in the settlement.
- Reliance on travel to nearby town (2km away) for connectivity;

NGO connectivity [7]

Perceived quality

- NGOs reports that quality is low to "OK"
- Non-connected data collection/transfer methods (e.g. USB memory sticks) are often used by NGOs.
- Poor connectivity leads to de-emphasis on data use for NGO management.

NGO access modes

- VSATs
- Mobile hotspot
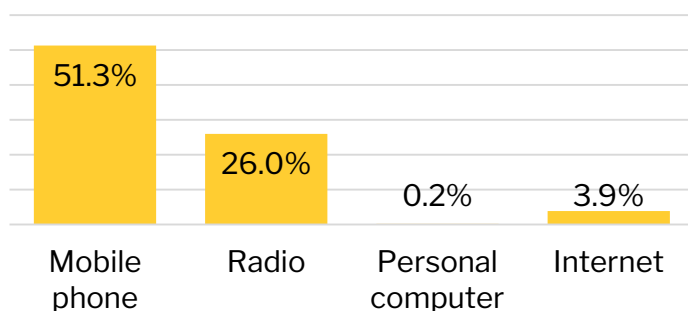- Personal devices

NGO access costs

- Reported at ~$200/Mbps/month

Phone charging
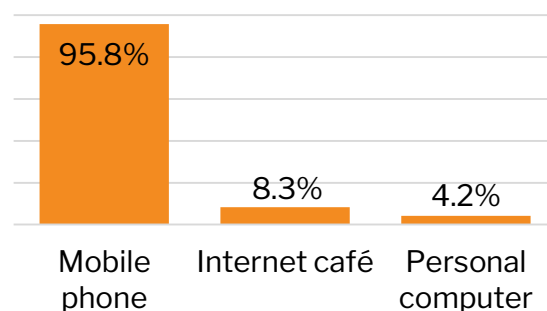
- The cost to charge a mobile phone is UGX 500. [4]

Mobile networks [7]

- Airtel
- MTN – 3G

Technology in use [2]

Communications technologies used in refugee households.

Mobile phone: 51.3%
Radio: 26.0%
Personal computer: 0.2%
Internet: 3.9%

Technologies used to access the internet.

Mobile phone: 95.8%
Internet café: 8.3%
Personal computer: 4.2%

References

[1] UNHCR, "Uganda Refugee Response Portal," [Online]. Available: https://ugandarefugees.org/. [Accessed 17 June 2018].

[2] WFP, "Analysis of Refugee Vulnerability in Uganda and Recommendations for Improved Targeting of Food Assistance," 2018.

[3] WFP, "Market Assessment in Refugee Areas 2016-2017," 2016.

[4] Power Africa.

[5] Uganda Investment Authority, "Kamwenge District Investment Profile," 2017.

[6] UNHCR, "Livelihoods Socio-Economic Assessment in the Refugee Hosting Districts," 2017.

[7] NetHope.

[8] UNCDF, "Digital Financial Service Ecosystems in Bidi Bidi Refugee Settlement," 2018.

The Smart Communities Coalition (SCC) is improving the delivery of essential services to refugees and host community members by enhancing coordination between public and private entities.

Our efforts focus on three foundational technology pillars – connectivity, digital tools, and energy access.

www.smartcommunities.org

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