



**Darfur Victims Support Organization and Hope and Haven Refugees,
in collaboration with Habitat Defenders Africa**

Distribution of Food Items for Urgent Support to the Women of Ndeeba, Rubaga Division, Kampala, Uganda – October 2025

Report



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1.0 Executive Summary

On 19 October 2025, a joint humanitarian initiative was undertaken in Ndeeba, Rubaga Division, Kampala, to support 75 flood-affected women-headed households following the heavy rainfall on 6 October 2025, which once again paralyzed traffic and inundated central Kampala.

The emergency food distribution was jointly organized by Darfur Victims Support Organization (DVSO) and Hope and Haven for Refugees Association (HHRA) in collaboration with Habitat Defenders Africa (HDA). The initiative aimed to provide immediate relief to vulnerable women who lost food stocks, household assets, and livelihoods due to flooding.

Each household received 10 kilograms of maize flour (posho), 1 kilogram of beans, and a small jerrycan of cooking oil, meeting short-term nutritional needs and restoring household dignity.

Beyond humanitarian relief, the activity embodied a strong advocacy message a “give-back” gesture by refugee-led and refugee-support organizations towards the Ugandan host community that has for decades offered sanctuary to refugees fleeing war and persecution, particularly from Sudan’s ongoing conflict.



Figure 1: Women-headed households gathered at Ndeeba Community gardens during the food distribution on 19 October 2025.

2. Background and Rationale

2.1. Context of the Floods in Kampala

Kampala experiences frequent flooding due to poor drainage, unplanned settlements, and climate change induced rainfall variability. On 6 October 2025, a torrential downpour submerged sections of Rubaga Division and other central areas, displacing low-income households and disrupting daily livelihoods.

Women-headed households, many already economically marginalized, bore the heaviest burden. Many lost stored food, clothing, and household utensils, while some sustained damage to informal shelters. This event underscored the urgent need for rapid response measures that protect vulnerable urban residents against climate-induced shocks.



Figure 2: Flooded homes and affected areas in Ndeeba following heavy rainfall on 6 October 2025.

2.2. Uganda's Role as a Refugee Host Country

Uganda remains one of the world's leading refugee-hosting nations, currently accommodating over 1.6 million refugees, primarily from South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Sudan. The government's progressive refugee policy provides access to land, movement, and employment, fostering integration and coexistence.

Within this spirit, refugee-led and refugee-support organizations, including DVSO and HHRA, are committed to giving back to Ugandan host communities through humanitarian action, community service, and advocacy partnerships that strengthen solidarity and resilience.

2.3. The War in Sudan and Its Humanitarian Consequences

The conflict in Sudan, which reignited in April 2023 between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), has caused a devastating humanitarian crisis. Over 10 million people have been displaced, including large numbers from Darfur, where systematic violence, displacement, and food insecurity persist.

Uganda has become a destination for Sudanese refugees seeking protection. Consequently, organizations such as **DVSO** and **HHRA** rooted in the Sudanese diaspora are contributing to both refugee welfare and host community resilience.

3. Organizational Profiles



Figure 3: DVSO, HHRA, and HDA representatives coordinating logistics distribution.

Darfur Victims Support Organization (DVSO)

Founded in 2016, DVSO is a humanitarian and advocacy organization established to support survivors of the Darfur conflict. It provides psychosocial support, legal aid, humanitarian assistance, and awareness-raising on human rights and transitional justice. DVSO operates in Sudan and Uganda, where it works with displaced and host communities to promote dignity, recovery, and accountability. Website: <https://darfurvs.org>

Hope and Haven for Refugees Association (HHRA)

HHRA is a non-profit network supporting displaced persons from Sudan and neighboring regions. The organization focuses on food distribution, emergency health care, and livelihood recovery. Its “Give Back to the Host” initiative promotes refugee-host collaboration in Uganda as a model of shared resilience and peacebuilding. Website: <https://www.hopeandhavenforrefugees.org>

Habitat Defenders Africa (HDA)

HDA is a regional civil society organization based in Uganda dedicated to defending human rights, protecting the environment, and empowering vulnerable communities.

Through rights-based and data-driven advocacy, HDA amplifies the voices of marginalized urban populations and mobilizes partnerships to address climate injustice and habitat loss. Website: <https://ug.linkedin.com/company/habitat-defenders-africa>

4. Implementation and Process

4.1. Objective

To provide emergency food support to 75 women-headed households in Ndeeba affected by floods, while demonstrating refugee-host solidarity and advancing humanitarian advocacy for gender-responsive disaster relief.

4.2. Targeting and Beneficiary Selection

Beneficiaries were identified in coordination with local leaders, women's groups, and community-based organizations within Rubaga Division. The criteria prioritized:

- ❖ Women as heads of households;
- ❖ Those whose homes or food stores were damaged by flooding;
- ❖ Low-income residents and informal settlers without social protection.



Figure 4: Local volunteers verifying beneficiary lists with local leaders in Ndeeba.

4.3. Relief Package Composition

Each beneficiary received:

- ❖ 10 kilograms of maize flour (posho)
- ❖ 1 kilogram of beans
- ❖ 1 small jerrycan (approx. 2.5 liters) of cooking oil

This composition was designed to sustain a household for approximately two weeks, providing balanced nutrition and practical cooking capacity.



Figure 5: Distribution of packages maize flour, beans, and cooking oil.

4.4. Coordination and Distribution

Procurement was done locally in Kampala through certified vendors to support the local economy. The food items were stored temporarily in Rubaga Division and distributed at Ndeeba Community gardens on 19 October 2025, under the supervision of DVSO, HHRA, and HDA teams. Local volunteers assisted in registration, verification, and crowd management to ensure transparency, dignity, and safety throughout the process.



Figure 6: Beneficiaries receiving their food packages from DVOs, HHRA and HDA with support from volunteers.

5. Key Outcomes and Impact

Indicator	Achievement
Women-headed households supported	75
Total maize flour distributed	750 kg
Total beans distributed	75 kg
Total cooking oil distributed	~187.5 liters
Direct beneficiaries (average household size: 5)	Approx. 375 individuals

Qualitative Impact

- Beneficiaries expressed deep gratitude, noting that the support arrived at a critical time when they had lost food reserves and income sources.
- The initiative restored a sense of dignity, solidarity, and trust between refugee-rooted organizations and Ugandan communities.
- Local authorities commended the partners for supporting women and promoting climate-responsive humanitarian assistance in urban settlements.



Figure 7: A beneficiary expressing gratitude after receiving her food package.

6. Challenges and Lessons Learned

Challenges

- ❖ Difficult access to flood-affected zones due to damaged roads and stagnant water.
- ❖ Limited funding prevented scaling to all affected neighborhoods.
- ❖ Rising food prices reduced procurement flexibility.
- ❖ Absence of transport vehicles adapted for urban flood logistics.

Lessons Learned

- ❖ Pre-identification of vulnerable households enhances rapid response capacity.
- ❖ Local partnerships with CBOs and community leaders strengthen credibility and accountability.
- ❖ Integrating gender and refugee-host solidarity messaging enhances the advocacy value of humanitarian actions.
- ❖ Future interventions should include multi-sectoral components (for example; hygiene kits, cash assistance, and psychosocial support).

7. Advocacy Message and Next Steps

This initiative is more than an emergency response, it is an advocacy act affirming the shared humanity and solidarity between refugees and Ugandan host communities. It underscores three key advocacy messages:

1. Climate justice and urban resilience must prioritize women-headed households living in informal settlements, who bear the brunt of flooding and climate-induced disasters.
2. Refugees are not merely aid recipients, they are active contributors to humanitarian action, peacebuilding, and local resilience.
3. Local partnerships between refugee-led and Ugandan civil society organizations are essential to achieving sustainable humanitarian and climate justice outcomes.

Next Steps

- ❖ Develop a Follow-up Livelihood Recovery Initiative to support women in rebuilding income activities.
- ❖ Engage Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) and humanitarian partners to scale up assistance in flood-prone urban zones.
- ❖ Advocate for integrated flood management and gender-responsive urban planning at policy level.

8. Conclusion

The 19 October 2025 emergency food distribution in Ndeeba demonstrates that solidarity, humanity, and shared responsibility are powerful tools in responding to the escalating humanitarian impacts of climate change.

By joining hands, Darfur Victims Support Organization, Hope and Haven for Refugees Association, and Habitat Defenders Africa not only provided immediate relief but also sent a powerful message of unity across borders that those once displaced by war can stand with those displaced by climate crises.

As climate-related disasters intensify, such collaborative, gender-responsive, and rights-based humanitarian interventions must become a model for inclusive advocacy and community resilience in Uganda and across Africa.

Prepared by:

Habitat Defenders Africa (HDA)

In collaboration with Darfur Victims Support Organization (DVSO) and Hope and Haven for Refugees Association (HHRA)

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