



NAKIVALE REFUGEE SETTLEMENT



PHASE TWO DISTRIBUTION REPORT

DATE: 14TH TO 16TH OCTOBER, 2025

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INTRODUCTION

Nakivale Refugee Settlement, situated in Isingiro District of southwestern Uganda, is one of the nation's oldest and largest settlements. As of September 30, 2025, the settlement hosts a total population of 272,361 individuals across 103,156 households, primarily hosting individuals from the Democratic Republic of Congo 207,122 and Burundi 35,435, along with communities from Rwanda and Somalia.

The settlement is vast, with the population concentrated in three main zones: Rubondo 104,964 individuals, Juru 97,651 individuals, and Base Camp 68,335. This vast area relies on a mixed approach to water provision, utilising treatment plants, motorized and manual boreholes, shallow wells, and institutional rainwater-harvesting systems.



1. THE CRITICAL NEED FOR WASH INTERVENTION

WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene) conditions in Nakivale remain mixed and critically deficient. Despite the presence of piped-water systems and treatment infrastructure, limited production capacity, high operational costs, and periodic rationing mean that many households must still rely on boreholes or point-of-use treatment methods like Aquatabs for safe drinking water.

- **Vulnerability Profile:** The population is highly vulnerable, with 74% Women and Children and 24 youth (15-24 years). Furthermore, the official records highlight substantial specific needs, including 19,250 individuals with a Disability and 8,883 Women at Risk, necessitating targeted and dignified service delivery.
- **Water Availability:** The average potable water supply is only around 18 litres per person per day. This barely meets, and often falls below, the minimum humanitarian norms for protracted refugee settings.

Sanitation Coverage: Sanitation coverage consistently falls short of required standards. Household latrine coverage remains below the 85% humanitarian WASH standard.



The combination of limited water quantity, intermittent supply, and inadequate sanitation coverage forces many residents to use unsafe water or inadequate facilities. This significantly increases the risk of water-borne and excreta-related diseases, thereby undermining public health and dignity within the settlement.

2. PROJECT OVERVIEW

In response to these challenges, Lifewater distributed household and institutional water filters in high-risk zones of Nakivale Refugee Settlement. The distribution focused on the Base Camp zone which is a home to 68,335 individuals. This was prioritised due to its high density and ongoing settlement of new arrivals. A total of **304** emergency water-filter systems, donated by WaterWorks, were distributed to persons of concern between Tuesday, 14th October and Wednesday, 15th October 2025. UNHCR and WASH partner Nsamizi supported the mobilization and verification of recipients.

WASH interventions rely heavily on women because they are the primary managers of household water collection, treatment, and hygiene practices. This was clearly reflected in our distribution, where women accounted for 55% of all collectors (168 out of 304), with most falling within the 25–49 age group that carries the greatest responsibility for caregiving and daily water-related tasks. Since these women received hands-on training, sustainability is further strengthened, as they are the main users of the systems and are best positioned to ensure correct, consistent, and long-term use of the water filters within their households.

3. KEY ACTIVITIES

3.1 Identification and Verification of Beneficiaries

Nsamizi TISD's Public Health Team, supported by Village Health Teams (VHTs) and Refugee Welfare Councils (RWCs), identified 300 households most affected by unsafe water access. The process targeted water-stressed villages reliant on unprotected water sources. Data was compiled and verified through UNHCR systems before final beneficiary lists were produced. Mobilization was conducted a week prior to distribution to ensure preparedness, orderliness, and transparency.

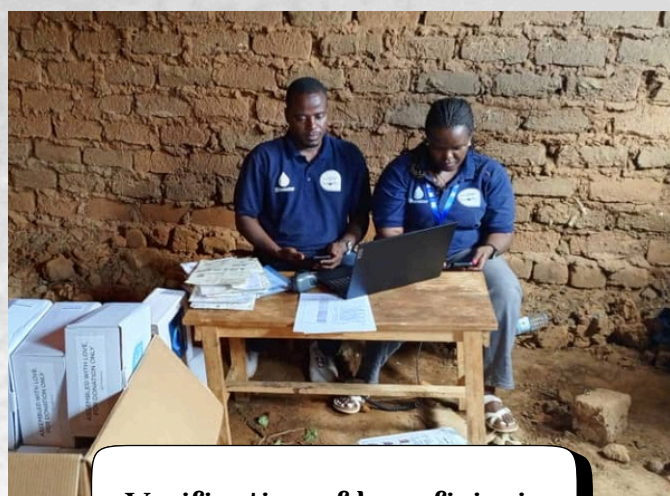
3.2 Distribution of Water Filters

The distribution of the 304 household water-filter kits was primarily completed on October 14th, with 70.95 % of the beneficiaries served and October 15th, with 13.97 % of beneficiary served.

The distribution process followed structured steps:

- Orientation of beneficiaries and introduction of implementing partners and donors
- Verification of beneficiaries using the UNHCR GDT system
- Registration and issuing of cards with water-filter IDs
- Hands-on training on installation, use, and maintenance
- Collection of signed attestation forms and issuance of filters to trained households

In total, **1,036 individuals** gained access to safe, clean drinking water. A detailed GDT Distribution Summary Report is attached.



Verification of beneficiaries



Training of beneficiaries

3.3 Distribution to Shammah Junior School -

During the same period, Lifewater donated two double-filter systems to Shammah Junior School, serving a student population of approximately 300 learners from Nursery to Primary Seven (P7). The students received instruction on how to assemble and maintain the system. A water committee was established to oversee the kits and to educate their fellow classmates on how to utilize the systems effectively. Empowering the end user is the first step to sustainability.



We express our heartfelt gratitude to Lifewater for this generous donation. Children will always seek ways to satisfy their thirst, often overlooking the safety of the water they consume. However, with the Lifewater kits, we can ensure that they have access to safe drinking water.” Headteacher



4. STORIES FROM THE CAMP

One week following the distribution, the Lifewater monitoring team visited the beneficiaries. It was heartwarming to observe them using the systems. Even more delightful was witnessing those who had improvised by using buckets and jerrycans to replace the bags that had been damaged by rats.

A Grandmother's Resilience:

Meet a lovely grandmother whose spirit shines brightly, even in tough times.

After receiving the lifewater system, her joy was short-lived as rats damaged her collapsible jerrycan, threatening her family's access to clean and safe drinking water. Amazingly, her determination never wavered.

With creativity, she repurposed old jerrycans to make sure her grandchildren continuously have safe drinking water.

Her story is a touching reminder of resilience and resourcefulness.

During the visit, our team advised her to keep the containers clean to avoid secondary contamination of water.



CONCLUSION

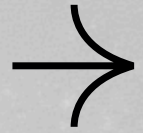
Since the commencement of the Nakivale project, a total of 604 homesteads have received water treatment systems.

This would not have been possible without various partnerships and collaborations. The partnership among Lifewater, Nsamizi TISD, UNHCR, and OPM showcases the effectiveness of coordinated WASH interventions in enhancing health outcomes, fostering sustainable water access, and safeguarding the environment within refugee communities.

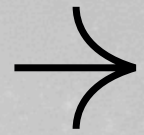
We express our heartfelt gratitude to WaterWorks for their invaluable support to those in need at Nakivale Refugee Settlement and throughout the broader refugee response.



HAPPY BENEFICIARIES



HAPPY BENEFICIARIES



MONITORING PICTURES

