

**HELPING REFUGEE STUDENTS MAKE ONLINE UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS APPLICATION  
IN UGANDA**



**A PROJECT REPORT SUBMITTED TO INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR COLLEGE  
ADMISSION COUNSELLING**

**BY: EMMANUEL KEMBA**

<b>Executive Summary .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Project Identification.....</b>	<b>1.1</b>
<b>Context.....</b>	<b>1.2</b>
<b>Origin and Problems .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Project Objectives and implementation Strategy .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Project Performance .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Project outcome, Target Beneficiaries involvement .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Lessons Learned.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Conclusion.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Annex 1: Project photos.....</b>	<b>8</b>

## **Executive Summary**

- i). Uganda is a landlocked country located in East Africa, bordered by South Sudan to north, Kenya to the east, Tanzania to South, Democratic Republic of Congo to the west, and Rwanda to the south west.
- ii). Uganda is one of the largest refugee-hosting nations in the world, with over 1,500,000 refugees from countries like South Sudan, Congo, and Sudan who were forced to flee their countries because of war. We have several refugee resettlement camps in Uganda that hosts refugees from the above-mentioned countries. These camps include Kiryadongo refugee settlement, Bidi Bidi settlement, and Acholpi refugee settlement. I have put a great effort this year to help the students from these refugee resettlement camps make online university admissions application. This action came following a request from students of these refugee camps requesting me to extend my services of helping under resourced students apply for university admissions to their areas.
- iii) The main objective of this project was curbing the challenge of limited number of students from these refugee camps applying for university admissions and indeed this project was a solution to student's problems in the resettlement camps. With the university admissions application centers that we created to enable these students to make online University application, we were able to help 1,832 students apply for university admissions. We also extended advisory support to these students while choosing the rightful courses that match the ever-changing Job market needs both within Uganda and outside Uganda. I had many stakeholders and volunteers that joined me during the process to make sure that this project was a success and yes, and yes, the project made a tremendous impact to the lives of these refugee students.
- iv). Almost all the project activities were carried out as planned. We aim to continue this same project each year until the students of all the refugee camps in Uganda get the necessary help they need to get access to university education. We were only able to work on three refugee camps; we could not attend to all the refugee camps in a single application window. We could have extended our services to all the other refugee camps if we had enough funding to carry out these activities. We had enough human resources, but the finances were limited. We also went ahead to help these students to learn basic computer knowledge so that in the coming years they will be in a position to join us to help their colleagues apply for university admissions. By 2030, we hope to achieve at least half of our target. By that time, we hope to have at least half of the students of these refugee camps able to help themselves and their peers who will join the camps in the future make online university admissions application.

v). While implementing this project, I learnt that it is wise to consider members of all groups of people while providing such import services. No one had ever thought of extending this kind of service to students in the refugee camps.

## **Project Identification**

This project was identified following a phone call I received from different refugee resettlement camps requesting me to help them in the process of university admissions applications. I paid a visit to the site prior to the project where I had a chance to meet 1,732 students, listened to their challenges and shared how best we could work on those challenges.

### **1.1 Context**

With the ever-changing technology, Students from these refugee resettlement camps were left behind following the introduction of the online university admissions application, replacing the paper application that students were comfortable with a few years ago.

### **Project Location**

The project was located in Northern Uganda in the areas of Kiryadongo, Bidibidi, and Aholpi. The distance from Kampala capital city to the locations is approximately 400 kilometers.

### **1.2 Origin and Problem**

#### **i) Origin**

As I said early, the project was identified following a phone call I received from different refugee resettlement camps requesting me to help them in the process of university admissions applications. I paid a visit to the site prior to the project where I had a chance to meet 1,732 students, listened to their challenges and shared how best we could work on those challenges.

#### **ii) Main problem addressed**

The main problem we addressed was Limited number of students applying for university admissions each year in the refugee resettlement camps in Uganda.

Generally, the main problems dressed are

1. Limited number of students applying for university admission
2. Lack of computer knowledge by refugee students.

## Project Objectives and Implementation

### **i) Project Objectives**

The main objective of the project was to curb the problem of limited number of students applying for university admissions from the refugee camps. The project therefore aimed at helping students from the camps to apply for university admissions and also helped them to gain basic computer knowledge.

### **ii) Implementation**

The first step taken during the implementation of this project was engaging in lengthy conversation with these students where I met 1732 students to learn their most pressing concern. After learning of their situation, I shared it with my colleagues who were so passionate to reach a helping hand to these students. I made a team of 13 colleagues admissions counsellors who helped me to carry out this project. We made an application center in the center of the camps to help these students in the process of applying for university admissions. We selected locations that were in the center of the camps and we also made sure that the application centers had electricity and reliable internet connection. Everything was implemented as planned and the project activities started on the 13<sup>th</sup> of July, 2025 and ended on the 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2025.

### **iii) Assumption and risks**

This project was funded by different individuals and organizations. Since I had to pay for the services before the project, I had to risk taking a bank loan to implement the project with hopes of repaying back the loan when I get the funding. I took a huge risk here in that some portion of this loan I have to pay for it on my own because all the fundings cannot cover all the expenses.

## **3. Project Performance**

So far, I would say the project made a tremendous achievement. We had an overwhelming turn up of students coming to the application centers to be supported with online university applications and counseling on the rightful courses to do at the university. The performance was good enough. I just had a little problem meeting my budget.

**a) Specific Objectives**

Specific Objectives	Status
Helping students of the refugee camps of Uganda to make online university admissions application.	Project Complete

**b) Schedule**

Start date: 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2025

End Date: 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2025

**c) Total amount of expenditure**

The Total amount of expenditure was \$4,598.

**4. Project outcome, Target Beneficiary involvement****i) The extent to which the project specific objective was achieved**

This project was purposely meant to help under resourced refugee students from the resettlement camps in Uganda to apply for online university admissions. The turn up was great and all those who turned up were offered the necessary support to enable them join universities of their choice.

**ii) The existing situation**

The major problem that existed was low number of students applying for university admissions from the refugee resettlement camps in Uganda. This problem was caused by lack of college admission counselors from the regions where these refugee camps are located. By implementing this project, I realized that students are so eager to learn how to do things and also know what step to take next after high school but they do not have people to help them learn.

**5. Assessment and Analysis****i) Project rational and identification process**

This project was identified following a request from the students of refugee resettlement camps of Uganda, who requested me to extend my services of helping students get help during the

process of transitioning from high school to higher levels of education. The students from these refugee camps never had anyone to help them during the process of transitioning from high school to higher levels of education. Therefore, the majority of them could only study up to high school and education ends there.

#### **ii) The result from the identification process**

The project was designed through the correct definition of the problem, the accurate identification of the project objectives, and viable choice of implementation strategy. At the same time, the identification process was closely linked to the problem.

#### **i) Time and Project input**

I worked with a team of 13 dedicated college admissions counselors who volunteered to join hands with me to help the refugee students of Uganda get the necessary support they required to get admissions to the university. Each of the college admissions counselors came along with their own laptops that we used to help these students to make online university applications.

#### **ii) Project beneficiaries**

The immediate project beneficiaries were the refugee students in Uganda who needed help in making online university applications, and guidance on what courses to take at the universities that meet both the present and future job market demands.

### **6. Lessons learned**

While carrying out the project study, I learnt that there is need to consider all groups of individuals while helping students to transition from high school to higher levels of education. The refugee students in Uganda were left out in the process of transitioning from high school to higher levels of education. No one had ever thought of offering support to these students. I also learnt that these students are really performing very well academically, they just needed someone to guide them through the process of university admissions.

### **7. Conclusion**

The project was finally completed on the 19<sup>th</sup> of July, 2025. A great appreciation goes to the international Association for College Admissions Counselling, Rev. Joseph Okumu, and Rescue Africa for offering financial to make sure this project implemented as planned.