

Uganda & South Sudan



MIGRATION NEWSLETTER



Foreword

Dear KAS friends,

Since February 2022, the Uganda and South Sudan Office of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) started implementing a 5-year initiative on migration and forced displacement. Among other key objectives, the program aims at understanding and providing solutions to the multiple causes of cross-border and intra-country movements in Uganda and South Sudan. We are pleased to present the 2nd KAS Migration Project Newsletter highlighting some of our activities in Uganda and South Sudan in 2023.

The overall program goal is to improve the social and political framework in Uganda and South Sudan for preventing and dealing with flight and forced migration.

In Uganda, building onto the work started in 2022, we continued working with already existing partners like Media Challenge Initiative (MCI), the Governance Accountability CSO Network (GAIN-Uganda), African Youth Action Network (AYAN), University Forum on Governance (UNIFOG), African Institute for Investigative Journalism (AIJ), National Youth Council (NYC), and the Alliance for National Transformation (ANT). The engagements brought together key stakeholders from various sectors, including government, civil society, academia, the media, refugees, and host communities, aiming at strengthening institutional commitment and operational approaches to addressing the challenges of migration in Uganda and South Sudan. In addition, new cooperations were build with institutions such as the Center for Policy and Strategic Studies (CPSS), the United for Development and Research Organization (UDRO), the Refugee Youth Parliament Association (RYPA), Makerere University International Office, Chapter Four Uganda, International Refugee Rights Initiative (IRRI), and the Office of the Prime Minister.

In South Sudan, KAS worked together with SPACE (formerly CEFORD), YMISS, YAMORA, and AYAN. We implemented peace-building workshops and conversations which brought together leaders in different capacities to discuss solutions to the persistent instability in the country. Further, a reunion of the KAS network of scholarship holders, alumni, fellows, and researchers in South Sudan explored possibilities for outreach in the country.

KAS appreciates all partners for their support in the advancement of the project. Our commitment to promoting good governance, civic engagement, and peace remains steadfast.

We look forward to your continued support as we work towards a better future for all.

Anisha Alinda

Programme Manager

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Uganda & South Sudan

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ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

1 Initiatives and projects of peaceful coexistence and civil society engagement

1.1 Stakeholders unite for peace: A dialogue to end conflict in South Sudan

From November 24th to 25th, 2023, key stakeholders convened in Juba to address the ongoing conflicts and engage in a peacebuilding dialogue in South Sudan. The primary issues currently confronting South Sudan are the implementation of the constitution and the preparation for the upcoming general elections scheduled for December 2024. While there is considerable anticipation among South Sudanese regarding these significant national processes, challenges remain due to insufficient adherence to the Reconstituted Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS). Key provisions of the agreement, including grassroots consultations on constitution-making, the formation and swearing-in of the constitution-making committee, and the unification and deployment of necessary forces, have yet to be fulfilled. Despite these challenges, the ruling party, South Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), continues its campaigning efforts, while most other political parties appear to remain inactive.

The dialogue, which engaged 58 peace actors from across South Sudan, provided a platform for candid discussions and updates from various stakeholders. The focus was on addressing public mis- and disinformation around constitution-making processes and the upcoming South Sudan General Elections. Additionally, the dialogue aimed to establish a shared understanding that prioritizes citizen protection, safety, and participation in a free and fair electoral process. The event was inaugurated by Hon. Jada Stansaus, Chairperson of the Specialized Committee on Peace and Reconciliation, Truth, and Healing at the South Sudan Transitional Legislative Assembly, with discussions moderated by Professor John Akech, Vice Chancellor of the University of Juba.

Hon. Jada Stansaus underscored that the December 2023 general elections remain a top priority despite the prevailing challenges. He highlighted critical issues such as limited access to information and insufficient civic education. He urged civil society organizations to increase their efforts in addressing these concerns.

1.2 Capacity building for refugee leaders in Palabek Refugee Settlements in Kitgum District



Group photo with participants.

In the Palabek refugee settlement, many community leaders play a crucial role in addressing and deescalating conflicts before they are communicated to the Settlement Commandant's office or UNHCR field offices. These leaders require advanced training and support to fully understand and leverage their role in fostering community-led peace initiatives. To address this need, we collaborated with the African Youth Action Network (AYAN) and organized a three-day training for 45 refugee leaders within the Palabek settlement. The training aimed to enhance peaceful coexistence between refugees and host communities. The sessions focused on conflict analysis, non-violent conflict resolution, and understanding the refugee leadership structures and how they can officially operate for the common good. This initiative facilitated collaboration among leaders, promoting effective local conflict resolution, and raising awareness about the importance of active participation in peace-making processes. Additionally, it strengthened engagement with the broader Refugee Engagement Forum of Uganda. Overall, the activity represented a significant step toward empowering and uniting the refugee community in Palabek.

1.3 Transformative leadership induction for refugee leaders in Kiryandongo, Uganda

Effective service delivery is a fundamental aspect of strong leadership. Refugee cluster leaders play a crucial role in addressing and resolving refugee-related issues through their respective working committees. However, many leaders lack the necessary tools, information, and understanding of the policy environment needed to enhance their effectiveness. To address this gap, KAS, in collaboration with AYAN and with support from the Office of the Prime Minister, facilitated a leadership induction training for 242 newly elected refugee leaders in the Kiryandongo Settlement in November. This inaugural training provided a unique opportunity for the new leaders to engage directly with key stakeholders, including the Area Chief Magistrate, the Assistant Inspectorate of Police, the Deputy Resident District Commander and the District Internal Security Officer and a protection officer from the Office of the Prime Minister. The training was centered on enhancing participants' understanding of the policies, laws, regulations, practices, and frameworks that underpin leadership within the social and political context in Uganda. Refugee leaders have shared that they frequently encounter legal challenges but often lack the necessary knowledge of Ugandan laws and policies to address these issues independently.

1.4 Capacity building for young refugees in the Nakivale Refugee Settlement



Group photo of participants and trainers.

The Nakivale Refugee Settlement presents a complex environment where refugees and host communities interact. The growing population of both groups has led to conflicts over resources such as land and water, as well as social tensions arising from cultural differences. Contributing factors like unemployment, post-traumatic stress, and alcohol abuse have exacerbated frustrations, leading to heightened disputes. Additionally, ethnic

stereotyping between different nationalities and ethnicities underscores the necessity to create appropriate platforms dedicated to discussing and sensitizing on peaceful conflict resolution and coexistence. In collaboration with the Refugee Youth Parliament Association (RYPA), we have conducted a training program at Nakivale Refugee Settlement in October, which aimed at enhancing the agency and participation of young people in governance and peacebuilding. The training, attended by 54 participants, equipped them with essential skills in effective communication, conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and a nuanced understanding of gender differences.

1.5 Grassroots synergies on migration: Addressing challenges and fostering solutions in Uganda



ANT Party President Mugisha Muntu addressing a gathering during Grassroots Synergies on Migration.

To address the multifaceted issues of migration within communities, KAS, in partnership with the Alliance for National Transformation Party (ANT), organized a series of engagements under the theme “*Grassroots Synergies on Migration and Protection from Human Trafficking*”. This initiative targeted local leaders and emphasized dialogue, awareness, and collaboration. The program focused on the refugee crisis and its impact on host communities across Western, Eastern, and Central Uganda. Discussions addressed legal frameworks, migration drivers, and the crucial role of young people in tackling migration challenges. As a result of these engagements, participants gained a deeper understanding of the dangers associated with human trafficking. The initiative not only facilitated cooperation among political actors but also highlighted the importance of leadership empowerment, conflict resolution, and proactive strategies to address forced migration. It aimed to foster democratic leadership and promote harmonious coexistence between refugees and host communities in Uganda.

2 Initiatives presenting a differentiated picture of flight and migration

2.1 “Grassroots Migration Dialogues” in local communities



Grassroots Migration Dialogue Training for local communities in Nakapiripirit district.

In collaboration with GAIN-Uganda, we conducted “Grassroots Migration Dialogues” across 16 districts (Jinja, Pallisa, Manafwa, Soroti, Amuria, Nakapiripirit, Moroto, Napak, Abim, Kotido, Lira, Gulu, Mbarara, Isingiro, Kisoro, and Kanungu). The primary objective of these dialogues was to gather and analyze local perspectives on migration, identify emerging issues, raise awareness among grassroots actors, and propose solutions to improve community well-being amidst migration and forced displacement challenges.

Identified key issues included child and human trafficking, prevalent in rural areas, labor externalization, and internal migration. As a result of the engagements, local leaders committed to a united effort against child and human trafficking. They resolved to create a safe environment for children, provide support to rescued victims, and equip them with skills and knowledge for successful reintegration into their communities.

REPORTS

Exploring community-based approaches to addressing cattle rustling in Karamoja region



Perspectives from Grassroots Migration Agenda Dialogues in Jinja, Pallisa and Manafwa districts



2.2 “Let’s Talk Migration”: Conversation series on the topic of migration in Uganda



Group photo of dialogue participants.

In 2023, KAS organized the Ugandan edition of the “Let’s Talk Migration” series, focusing on labor migration which is a major global phenomenon influenced by various push-and-pull factors. This issue affects a wide and diverse range of individuals such as immigrants, temporary workers, refugees, and executives of multinational corporations.

Ugandan migrant workers are temporary employees, primarily based in Middle Eastern countries such as Saudi Arabia which has a Bilateral Labor Migration Agreement (BLA) with Uganda, as well as Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). There is also a notable presence of Ugandan migrant workers in other African countries, as well as in Europe, North America, and China. When managed in an orderly, safe, and humane manner, labor migration is anticipated to play a vital role in Uganda’s socio-economic development. Despite the progress made by the Ugandan government and its partners to enhance labor migration practices, there are ongoing concerns regarding the effectiveness and execution of these measures. On June 21st 2023, KAS Uganda and South Sudan, in collaboration with the Center for Policy and Strategic Studies (CPSS), hosted a dialogue in Kampala titled

“Safe Labor Migration as an Engine for Uganda’s Socio-Economic Development: Unpacking Opportunities and Challenges”. The event convened a diverse group of stakeholders, including representatives from the Ministry of Gender, Labor, and Social Development (MGLSD), National Parliament, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), labor externalization companies, former migrant workers, civil society organizations, media, and academic institutions. Key topics addressed during the dialogue included the protection of migrant workers through enhanced recruitment regulations, the expansion of Bilateral Labor Migration Agreements (BLAs) beyond the Middle East, improvements in registration and licensing processes, increased funding for regulatory bodies, tracking of migrant

workers, and the flow of information between various stakeholders. The initial dialogue highlighted the significance of Bilateral Labor Agreements (BLAs), emphasizing the need for a comprehensive analysis of these agreements. BLAs outline the terms of labor migration between countries, and foster understanding for their clauses, which is essential to ensuring balanced agreements and protecting workers' well-being.

The second dialogue focused on the socio-economic impact of BLAs in Uganda. The objective was to explore the complexities of these agreements, including their formulation and provisions. The discussion specifically assessed how BLAs safeguard the rights of Ugandan laborers, promote equitable treatment, and address potential risks associated with labor migration.

Mr. Egulu Lawrence, Commissioner of Employment Services at the Ministry of Gender, Labor, and Social Development (MGLSD) led the discussion by providing insights into Uganda's role in the design of the BLAs, key clauses, and current status. His presentation was followed by a panel discussion featuring experts from both the government and private sectors, and an interactive Q&A session. The panel emphasised the role of government in BLAs, the issue of limited civil society involvement in the drafting process, and the need for effective implementation of agreement clauses, such as e-monitoring of migrant workers.

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2.3 “Let’s Talk Migration”: Conversation series on the topic of migration in South Sudan



KAS Uganda & South Sudan Team



Samuel Muhindo - Programme Officer

The “Let’s Talk Migration” - Juba event, held on December, 12th, 2023, addressed the challenges associated with the population influx in Juba, the capital of South Sudan. With a 4.4% increase in population over the past year and rising unemployment rates, the event aimed to explore comprehensive solutions through civic engagement.

Organized by KAS in partnership with the SPACE initiative, the dialogue assembled 50 community representatives from various nations across East Africa and the Middle East. Participants included emigrant community leaders, youth and women representatives, business leaders, the host community in Juba, media outlets, internally displaced persons, individuals with disabilities, and diplomatic missions. The theme, “Listening to Our Stories, Drawing Our Commonality, and Sharing Our Mutual Benefits with Diversity” highlighted the importance of collaboration and inclusivity. The event featured a lecture by an immigration expert, storytelling sessions, and a plenary discussion. These activities aimed to enhance participants’ understanding of migration issues, foster empathy among emigrants, and promote collaboration and inclusivity. The event contributed to a greater appreciation of the challenges faced by emigrants, improved relationships between host and emigrant communities, facilitated equitable opportunity sharing and peaceful coexistence.

2.4 Human Rights Convention 2023



(L-R) Dr. Zahara Nampewo - Executive Director HURIPPEC at Makerere, Matthias Schauer - German Ambassador to Uganda, Nobert Mao - Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Anna Reismann - Country Representative KAS Uganda & South Sudan.

Theme: Migration and the Quest for Peaceful and Inclusive Societies

#HRCUg2023

UNVEILING REALITIES: IS THE GROWING POPULATION A PUSH FACTOR FOR MIGRATION?

PANELISTS

- Dr. Peter Kisakyie
- Agnes Igoye
- Dr. Abel Nziabana
- Ronnie Mukundane
- Lucy Peace Nantume

SESSION CHAIR

- Lucy Peace Nantume

Theme: Migration and the Quest for Peaceful and Inclusive Societies

#HRCUg2023

BRAIN DRAIN AND BRAIN GAIN: THE IMPACT OF MIGRATION ON HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

PANELISTS

- Aggrey David Kibenge
- Innocent Ndashirwa
- Achieng Akens
- Ahmed Hadji
- Alina Reiss

SESSION CHAIR

- Alina Reiss



A panel of experts at the Human Rights Convention.

Together with Chapter Four Uganda, the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Uganda and South Sudan hosted the Human Rights Convention 2023 themed “*Migration and the Quest for Peaceful and Inclusive Societies*”. The event assembled over 200 representatives from various sectors to discuss critical issues such as legal frameworks, civic freedoms, fair trials, access to justice, accountability, and development, with a focus on the role of national human rights institutions.

Despite constitutional guarantees, recent years have seen the introduction of regressive laws that restrict fundamental rights, raising concerns about arbitrary limitations on civil society organizations and the lack of accountability for human rights violations. Emigration, particularly driven by high youth unemployment, has been underexplored, warranting further scrutiny due to its associated human rights challenges. The convention aimed to propose reforms, analyze migration drivers, foster collaboration, and contribute to informed discussions on migration and human rights.

3 Work with media: Journalists empowered to cover migration issue

3.1 Connecting the dots: Demography, SDGs, and Migration



Dr Jimmy Spire Ssentongo (C) prize winner for the Human Rights Defender 2023, together with KAS Uganda country representative Anna Reismann (L) and Chapter Four Uganda Team.

To enhance awareness among media professionals regarding the intersection of migration, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and demography, KAS partnered with the Media Challenge Initiative (MCI) to implement a series of engagements focused on migration. The program drew attention to a significant connection between demographic growth, resource pressure, limited employment opportunities, and migration. Aimed at increasing the number of journalists professionally reporting on these issues in Uganda, the program equips media representatives with the knowledge and skills necessary for effective reporting to foster critical and constructive public debates.

The training sessions included expert discussions and presentations, as well as real-life case studies illustrating the impact of demography and migration on local communities. Emphasis was placed on practical workshops related to the SDGs to improve journalists' reporting skills, research methods, interviewing techniques, and storytelling approaches. Engagement with local leaders, who shared their experiences, provided valuable insights and perspectives from those directly addressing these issues at the community level.

The MCI Media Van played a crucial role in capturing this knowledge by documenting insights, interviews, and discussions which laid the foundation for the dissemination of information and knowledge in future media training. Additionally, the trained journalists received story grants to support the production of reports on demography, migration, and SDGs. For more information on accessing their stories, please refer to the details below.



How Ntoroko IDPs are recovering 4 years after L. Albert flooding



How Refugees Are Finding Survival Alternatives As Food Cuts Loom



Valley dams, a mitigation for drought in Ntoroko



Refugees, host community restore 1,146 acres of tree cover



Empowering Resilience! Internally Displaced Women Find Hope in Kasese District



Refugees face food shortages in camp



3.2 Know Now Media Campaign in South Sudan

The Know Now Media Campaign (KNoMEC), an initiative by SPACE with support from KAS, was designed to address the insufficient media coverage of migration and forced displacement issues in South Sudan. The country, beset by political conflicts and natural disasters, has experienced the internal and external displacement of millions of people.

The media campaign provided training for journalists from leading media outlets in Juba, focusing on migration, storytelling, fact-checking, security, and forced displacement. The objective was to enhance the journalists' capacity for accurate and reliable reporting when providing information on the challenges faced by internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees.

Running from October to November, the campaign included various activities such as radio talk shows with migration experts and public service announcements. The training program, which involved 14 journalists, equipped them with the skills necessary to write feature stories on migration and forced displacement and supported them in publishing their work. The campaign successfully raised awareness, amplified the voices of victims, and advocated for local solutions to address the root causes of migration and forced displacement in South Sudan. Some of the published stories can be accessed at:



With Climate Change Complications, Peace, Security Eludes South Sudan



Sudanese refugees in South Sudan face huge HIV threat



3.3 Dissemination dialogues of the documentary on labor externalization

In 2022, we collaborated with the African Institute for Investigative Journalism (AIJ) on an initiative to address issues related to labor externalization in Uganda. This partnership resulted in a documentary titled *“The Dark Side of Labor Externalization”*, which highlights exploitation, human rights violations, and unethical labor practices.

In 2023, the documentary was disseminated to raise awareness among stakeholders and the public about the challenges associated with labor externalization and to foster discussions on the topic. Activities in the districts of Luwero, Masaka, and Iganga attracted 314 participants, while the documentary garnered 38,000 views on YouTube by mid-2023.

4 Engagement with young people

4.1 Youth Voices on Migration in Tooro



Participants at the Youth Voices on Migration Dialogue in Fort Portal district.

United for Development and Research Organization (UDRO) and KAS organized the *“Awakening the Lion of Tooro Youth Conference”* with migration as its central theme. Hosting two major refugee camps, Kyaka II and Rwamwanja, Tooro faces significant socio-economic and cultural challenges exacerbated by the presence of refugees.

The conference aimed to sensitize and empower the youth, who represent a significant segment of the region’s population, regarding their role in peacebuilding, migration issues, and socio-economic transformation. Addressing the vulnerability of refugees to exploitation and violence, the event aligned with UN Security Council resolutions that emphasize the role of youth as agents of change for peace and security. The conference sought to minimize youth involvement in conflicts, guide informed decision-making, and address unemployment challenges by equipping participants with essential knowledge. This initiative contributed to fostering peaceful coexistence and positively influencing perspectives on migration.



4.2 Ekyooto Fireside Chat with Makerere University migrant students



In a collaborative effort between KAS, the Makerere University International Office, the International Students' Association, and the International Students' Affairs Guild Office, the Ekyooto-Fireside Chat was organized on November 3rd, 2023 at Makerere University. The event brought together 150 international students, university officials, partners, and experts. The conversation explored challenges faced by migrant students at Makerere University. It facilitated insightful discussions on challenges, encouraged knowledge sharing, and inspired innovative solutions. The speakers included Agnes Igoye, Lucy Peace Nantume, Misba Noori, Noumechi Rouchel, Awien Rose, and Ngumya A. Praise. The Fireside chat facilitated a platform to identify existing resources, support systems, and pathways for peaceful coexistence and inclusion. The event helped to reflect on the best practices that distinctly benefit international students.



International Students that graced the Ekyooto Fireside Chat at Makerere University.

4.3 Fellows and Alumni of UNIFOG



UNIFOG fellows attending a Training on Migration and Development.

For long, KAS has partnered with the University Forum on Governance (UNIFOG) to conduct the Leadership Advancement Program (LAP) Fellowship, geared towards building the leadership capacities of young people. In 2023, migration has been incorporated into the fellowship as one of the focus areas. In its fifth Interface, conducted on September 30th and October 1st, 2023 under the theme *“Migration and Development”*, the introduction enlightened emerging leaders on the impacts of migrations, economic consequences, and migration management policies. The fellowship leaders used interactive lectures, group assignments, documentaries, and experience sharing to engage constructively in discussions about migration, analyze policy, and propose interventions. By empowering these emerging leaders, UNIFOG and KAS have contributed to a more multifaceted understanding of migration among the fellows.

4.4 KAS Scholars and Alumni unite for societal impact in South Sudan



(L-R) Ms Anna Reismann - Country Representative KAS Uganda and South Sudan together with H.E. Christian Sedat, the German Ambassador to South Sudan and Robert Antipas - Executive Director SPACE.

In collaboration with SPACE, KAS hosted an event for its scholars and POLA-LAB Fellowship Alumni of South Sudan on December, 14th, 2023, in Juba, South Sudan. This gathering served as a testament to KAS' commitment to fostering a strong network of individuals dedicated to positive societal change. The dialogue created a conducive space for participants to discuss pressing social issues affecting their community. Participants also shared experiences, gained new perspectives, and explored potential collaborations in critical areas such as migration, education, health, economic development, social justice, and environmental sustainability. Through interactions with alumni, current scholars also benefited from valuable insights and role models, fostering inspiration for their future career development. In a world faced with myriad challenges, the KAS Scholars and Alumni Event is an opportunity for collaboration, learning, and growth. It symbolizes a collective effort to contribute to positive change and create a supportive network for individuals committed to making a difference in South Sudan.



A group photo of the KAS Uganda & South Sudan team, SPACE South Sudan partners meeting with the German Ambassador to South Sudan H.E. Christian Sedat.

4.5 National Youth Council (NYC) in conversation with young people on Demography, Migration, and SDGs

Uganda is struggling with demographic challenges as its population reaches 45 million. The impact of youth migration, both internal and external, becomes a focal point in shaping the socio-economic and demographic fabric of the country. The conversation on internal migration, largely driven by factors such as education and employment, exposed issues related to urban infrastructure and social service strain. The discussion on external migration, notably to the Middle East, addressed a complex dynamic that redirected national labor needs toward short-term foreign opportunities. Recognizing the knowledge gap and urgency of addressing these challenges, KAS partnered with young people to undertake community dialogues across five districts (Moyo, Apac, Kyenjojo, Soroti, and Mpigi). Participants included youth leaders, district representatives as well as political leaders and representatives from the security sector. The community dialogues facilitated discussions on the role and impact of youth migration, evaluated the National Youth Council's past performance considering demographic realities, identified opportunities for enhancing youth leadership based on past insights, and established a collaborative platform for knowledge-sharing among stakeholders on youth migration.

5 Participation in security and development policy debates on migration

5.1 Y4P Fellowship on Migration



Youth4Policy Migration Fellows graduation - 2022 Cohort.

The Youth4Policy (Y4P) fellowship was conducted in 2022, the first year of the implementation of the 5-year migration project. Y4P is an initiative of KAS aimed at empowering the next generation of policy experts to meaningfully contribute to policy analysis and public debates. It serves as a capacity development lab for youth leaders from a diverse spectrum of backgrounds such as academia, civil society, and public service, all united by the motivation to research and analyze specific policy questions from a youth perspective. The migration fellowship attracted 18 young researchers interested in studying and exploring pertinent policy questions around migration and forced displacement in Uganda and South Sudan. The fellows participated in a series of activities, such as workshops, conferences, roundtable discussions, and fieldwork. In addition, they were supported to produce well-researched policy papers that address fundamental policy questions around migration and forced displacement in Uganda and beyond. The policy papers were compiled into a joint publication and launched during their last interface and graduation in August 2023. The graduation not only celebrated the fellows' journey but also equipped them to further contribute to the *"Migration Agenda"* through sessions on advocacy and exposure to platforms and opportunities in the area of migration.



Some testimonials on the impact of the fellowship

“One of the highlights of the fellowship was the opportunity to conduct field research in the Karamoja region, where I gained firsthand insights into the socio-economic, cultural, and political factors driving human trafficking and exploitation. Engaging with local communities, government officials, and non-governmental organizations deepened my appreciation for the complexities of the issue and reinforced the importance of context-specific interventions grounded in local realities.” **Lucius Lomilo** (Researcher and Public Policy Analyst)

“The fellowship was very helpful in my life as a post graduate student at Uganda Christian University doing master’s of Arts in Strategic Communication because I was able to finish my research with ease. The abstract tailoring and mentorship provided by the fellowship is supporting my academic career where now I dream of doing a PhD after my Masters, because one of the major challenges that make people fear post graduate studies like PhD and masters is research, which I feel is not and will never be my problem now. The Fellowship also got me to Belgium, Ghent University for the International Conference with my fellowship tailored work at Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement. This was a fully paid trip by KAS to allow me to present my paper at the Conference. I hope to be an inspiration to the young people gearing up for the next fellowship and tell them everything is possible when you devote your time and give it your best.” **James Ojok Onono**

5.2 Participation in international fora

Ojok James Onono, a fellow in the 2022 Cohort for Y4P on migration presented his paper developed during the fellowship at the International Inter- and Transdisciplinary Conference titled *“The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 75: Rethinking and Constructing its Future Together”*. The event took place from December 6th to 8th, 2023 at Ghent University, Belgium. Onono’s Paper on Improving Public Communication for Effective Service Delivery to Refugees in Uganda, part of his contribution to KAS’ publication *“Examining Uganda’s Migration Policy”*, was accepted in the Migration and Human Rights Panel of the Conference. He shared his experience with the KAS team upon return and authored an article about the same, which can be accessed on



KAS Commits to Supporting Youth Development in Policy advocacy on Migration, Human Rights



6 Other engagements: National Coordination Mechanism on Migration

KAS successfully advocated for the inclusion of migrants in the 13th session of the National Coordination Mechanism (NCM) on Migration which took place from August, 16th-18th, 2023 at ADMAS Hotel in Entebbe. The NCM is a government of Uganda-led inter-agency coordination platform tasked to discuss migration issues and facilitate cooperation among relevant stakeholders with migration-related mandates, thereby contributing to better migration management and governance. The meeting sought to validate the Migration Governance Indicators (MGI) in Uganda as well as holding migration governance-related discussions like the Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment & Climate Change. The latter aimed at bringing nations across East and the Horn of Africa together to prioritize, respond to and galvanize global support in dealing with the harsh impact of climate change on human mobility. Participants included representatives from government MDAs, trade unions, business and civil society, educators as well as academics. The forum allowed KAS to share about its migration project and network with key stakeholders on migration.



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