

MAF helps decrease suicide among refugees in Uganda by 75%

According to the WHO, an estimated 117.3 million people worldwide were forcibly displaced due to persecution, conflict, violence or human rights violations in 2023. Around 2.2 million of these have fled from South Sudan — the majority arriving in neighbouring Uganda, which hosts the largest refugee population in Africa.

MAF Uganda flies 4 times a week to Arua, providing access to the Bidibidi refugee settlement which houses 270,000 refugees. An MAF flight from the capital to Arua saves over 12 hours by road.

One regular MAF partner – Brass



for Africa — has seen a significant decrease in suicide rates at Bidibidi since they have been running community music programmes. Refugees have learned to play brass instruments for relaxation and are now able to earn a living.

Sarah, a 19-year-old refugee, was torn from her family and arrived in Bidibidi in 2018. She says Brass for Africa changed her life. 'Music is helping to heal my trauma. I have found myself — and changed from a nobody to a somebody,' she says.

In 2021, there were over 160 suicides recorded in the camp, but in 2023, after Brass for Africa's music workshops, this dropped to

40 — a decrease of 75%.

Ronald Kabuye — Brass for Africa's Programme Manager and a former refugee — has seen the huge difference music has made. Thanks to a strong MAF partnership, the project is thriving.

Ronald says, 'Before MAF, it was an entire day of road travel plus another to recover for our team. But with MAF, we can ensure more time is spent on the projects and can arrange short visits in case of emergency. With MAF, we can travel just half a day and rest. Now we've brought music, we're achieving a vibrant community.'

Pause for prayer

Please pray for the thousands of families who continue to flee from conflict, hunger and deprivation in Sudan, South Sudan, and surrounding nations. Pray for MAF flights which enable NGOs to deliver vital rehabilitation and emergency help for those in desperate situations.

World Refugee Day

World Refugee Day takes place every year on 20 June to highlight the challenges faced by the global refugee community. You can learn more about how MAF supports refugees in Uganda by reading a story published on World Refugee Day at www.maf-uk.org/news

Let MAF come to you

MAF has a team of over 100 dedicated volunteers across the country who are waiting to visit you. Whether it's a church meeting, mid-week group or weekend retreat, why not invite one of our speakers to bring MAF's work to life and share stories from the ends of the earth? To book a speaker, visit www.maf-uk.org/speaker