



Brand new swing sets, seesaws and slides work as a pull factor, drawing in children who would otherwise skip school. PHOTO: BJÖRN UDD



FCA School Bus, 'Matatu'. PHOTO: ESTHER RUTH MBABAZI

## LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

**FCA AND THE LEGO FOUNDATION** are connecting with out of school children in the world's second largest refugee settlement through the 'Play to Learn' project.

Only 14 % of refugees in Uganda's Bidibidi settlement complete primary education. FCA Uganda is confronting the problem of a high rate of dropouts from school by reaching out to communities with functional and play-based pedagogical activities in safe, protected and inclusive environments.

The innovative, creative and colourful FCA School Bus is supported by the LEGO Foundation funding of \$480,000 over 18 months. Equipped with learning and play material, including locally made toys, it allows the delivery of attractive and pedagogically organised content. The non-formal learning environment

also contributes to improved psychosocial wellbeing and resilience. During the initial project run, 432 children in 6 villages were motivated through play-based learning to return to school.

Video and sound equipment in the bus is powered by solar energy and learners have access to tablets programmed with the Can't Wait to Learn (CWTL) app, developed for Education in Emergencies (EiE) contexts.

Learners can then transfer to our Accelerated Education Programme (AEP) centres where the same techniques and safe, creative playgrounds ensure that newly enrolled learners stay in school and complete their education. With the LEGO Foundation support, FCA has trained 130 teachers and assistants at the centres in functional and play-based pedagogy.

### FCA and the LEGO Foundation

FCA has worked with the LEGO Foundation since 2022, developing innovative and playful ways to integrate pedagogical approaches to teaching and learning.

LEGO's Playful Learning in Crisis Settings (PLICS) initiative focuses on protracted refugee settings and seeks to ensure refugee and host community children aged 3-12+ achieve improved holistic skills and learning.

### Key Facts

- 239,096 refugees in Bidibidi refugee settlement.
- 50 % of refugees are between 5-17.
- FCA is a Finnish based INGO working in development cooperation and humanitarian assistance, focusing on the right to education, livelihood and peace.
- In Uganda FCA provides access to quality education, runs vocational training centres and partners with local organisations promoting resilience to violent extremism.