

By Robert Ariaka

The European Union's (EU) Sustainable Urban Integration of Displacement-Affected Communities (SUIDAC) project is reshaping Arua City. Targeting both self-settled urban refugees and host communities, it will upgrade infrastructure and expand livelihood support.

Site selection is done and community-focused interventions are rolling out, widening access to services and economic opportunities for all.

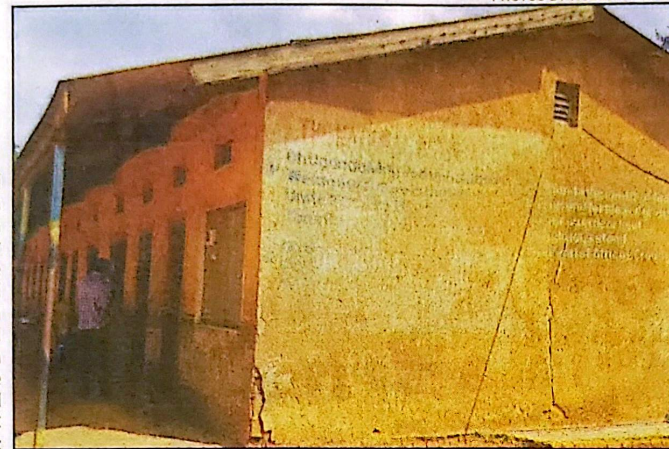
The SUIDAC project funded by EU and implemented by Cities Alliance, hosted by UNOPS, the Euros 30m regional programme is being delivered across nine African cities.

In Uganda, Arua City and Koboko Municipality are SUIDAC beneficiaries, with Associazione Centro Aiuti Volontari as technical partner. David Kyansaku, the Arua City town clerk, said the project received sh3.4b. The grant agreement was signed in December 2025, with funds already disbursed.

The city is working

EU PROJECT TO UPGRADE ARUA CITY INFRASTRUCTURE

PHOTOS BY ROBERT ARIAKA



The old classroom block at Arua Primary School to be constructed newly with an eight storied classroom under the EU funded SUIDAC Project

with local partners: Global Rehabilitation and Transformation Response, Rural Initiative Alliance for Development Foundation, West Nile Community Action for Rural Development and Community Empowerment for Transformation Action

West Nile.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Kyansaku said Arua City will build a one-storey, eight-classroom block at Arua Primary School for sh749.9m and a five-stance VIP latrine for sh33m. A classroom will be converted

into a science lab and equipped for sh214.5m. Adumi Health Centre IV will get a new general ward built to Ministry of Health standards for sh939m, plus sh107.3m in equipment.

A satellite market with 40 stalls will cost sh60m, including a five-stance

VIP latrine at sh30m. In displacement-affected communities, sh29m will fund detailed plans for Odramacaku (20 sqkm) and Oluodri (12 sqkm). Surveying will cover 44km of arterial roads: 33km in Odramacaku and 21km in Oluodri. Another 54km of arterial roads will be opened for sh162.3m.

PARTNERSHIP

Hilary Lugala Angelo, Global Rehabilitation and Transformation Response (GRTR) technical director, said the refugee-led

organisation will train youth and women's groups in Arua Central and Ayivu Divisions, focusing on skills and mindset change. The project targets youth aged 15-30 for practical placements.

"We have selected 20 groups across four partners. GRTR has two youth groups ready to start," Lugala said.

Mayor Wadri Sam Nyakua called the project a test of Arua City's capacity, pledging effective delivery in education, health, livelihoods, and skilling.



David Kyansaku

EIGHT CLASSROOMS TO BE BUILT AT ARUA PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR SH749.9M



Funded by the European Union



Cities Alliance



ARUA CITY



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