

# SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (SGBV) SITUATION IN NYARUGUSU REFUGEE CAMP

30 June 2016

## CONTEXT

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### Nyarugusu Camp

Nyarugusu camp located in North West Tanzania is host to 130, 249 persons of concern to UNHCR. 65, 015 are pre-influx and the majority of whom are from Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Between April and October 2015, the camp also received new arrivals from Burundi. The total number of children among the newly arrived population stands at 57.4% and the total number of women and children stands at 77.9%.<sup>1</sup>

### SGBV Background

Sexual and Gender-based violence (SGBV) among persons of concern is manifested in many forms, including but not limited to, rape, sexual assault, physical assault, forced marriage, psychological and emotional abuse and denial of resources, opportunities and services.<sup>2</sup> Whereas the majority of survivors and persons at risk are women and girls, men and boys can also experience SGBV. In situations of forced displacement violence can occur in the country of origin, during flight and/or in the country of asylum.

The sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) sub working group (SWG) is the coordinating body with the objective of strengthening SGBV prevention and response in the context of the refugee response in Nyarugusu. The SWG is a sub group of the Protection Working Group (PWG) and is chaired by UNHCR and the International Rescue Committee (IRC), under the refugee coordination model led by UNHCR. Members of the SWG include government actors, international and national non-governmental organizations and UN agencies and programs.

The SWG facilitates multi-sectoral, inter-disciplinary Inter-Agency programming and provision of adequate services in accordance with international standards and guidelines.<sup>3</sup> It is aimed at ensuring the provision of accessible, prompt, confidential and appropriate multi-sectoral services (safety, legal, psycho-social and medical) to survivors of SGBV and reduction of risk of SGBV. The SWG focuses on ensuring these services for all persons of concern to UNHCR. Programing across all sectors remains a great challenge due to the lack of funding required to upgrade latrines and shelters to meet minimum standards in protection. Innovative community approaches have been engaged where possible but in order to improve the standards funding is required. This continues to be a source of joint advocacy between sectors.

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<sup>1</sup> UNHCR Statistics – 1 March 2016 - [Inter-agency Information Sharing Portal - Tanzania Burundi Response](#)

<sup>2</sup> See the GBV IMS classification tool for more information - [http://gbvims.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/ClassificationTool\\_Feb20112.pdf](http://gbvims.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/ClassificationTool_Feb20112.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Revised IASC Guidelines for GBV Interventions in Humanitarian Settings 2015; SPHERE, Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies.

The SWG has agreed on an Inter-Agency strategy developed in the context of the broader protection strategy for the refugee response including the Regional Refugee Response Plan<sup>4</sup> developed to respond to the Burundi crisis. At the end of June this plan was revised to assess implementation and revise priorities.

The difficult living conditions in Nyarugusu continue to place great strain on the refugees and asylum seekers living in Nyarugusu. The new shelter and site plan is pending approval from the Government prior to proceeding with an initial phase of 4,000 individual transitional shelters in the Burundian zones. The Department of Natural Resources along with the Community Environmental and Development Organization (CEMDO) are conducting a new survey of available firewood around Nyarugusu so that arrangements can be put in place to harvest it. The report is expected the second week of July.

In the Security Task Force in June, MHA and Police made strong commitments to enhance patrolling and enforcement of the camp by-laws which would greatly assist in increasing security measures and addressing issues around alcohol and substance abuse, public displays of pornographic material and possible exploitation. The SGBV SWG shared a mapping exercise which had been conducted to identify particular areas of risk. The community watch teams (Sungu Sungu) were also engaged to increase active patrolling in such areas. Due to the fact that refugees and asylum seekers are not permitted to leave the camp without a permit, community watch patrols in the bush are not possible. The Police from neighboring village police posts agreed to increase patrolling but require additional resources for motorbikes etc.

## Reported SGBV Cases, Trends and Analysis

Reported SGBV incidents are recorded in the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBV IMS) that ensures safe, ethical and standardized collection of SGBV data as well as effective protection of confidentiality and privacy of the survivor. Report and analysis of data are exclusively based on reported SGBV incidents only and is in no way indicative of prevalence of SGBV. The International Rescue Committee (IRC) is the lead organization providing SGBV prevention and response activities in Nyarugusu refugee camp and also manages GBV IMS.

In June 2016, there were 105 (99F 6M) newly reported incidents reflecting a decline in reporting compared to the previous month when 141 incidents were reported. As in previous months the majority of incidents were reported by females, with 94% of all reported incidents affecting women and girls. Reporting in June declined across the different types of GBV from denial of resources to sexual assault. Firewood collection, unlockable shelters, harmful traditional practices, alcohol and substance abuse remain key contributing factors to SGBV, as in previous month.

There was a decrease in the number of actual physical assault reports from 29% (41) in May to 27% (28) in June. An analysis of the above reports by context in the below chart shows that Intimate partner violence/domestic violence is the most reported case context at 51% (54) followed by child sexual abuse at 11% (12). In June, 54% of alleged perpetrators were classified as either intimate partners or spouses, or other family members (other than a spouse or caregiver). A total of 37% (34) were unknown persons. As of 30 June 2016, there were 679 newly reported incidents of SGBV in 2016.

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<sup>4</sup> <http://data.unhcr.org/burundi/documents.php?page=1&view=grid&Org%5B%5D=1>

## MULTI-SECTORAL RESPONSE TO SGBV INCIDENTS

Multi-sectoral response services (medical, legal, safety and psychosocial) are in place and functioning. Case management services are being provided. Provision of those services is based on guiding SGBV principles, including a survivor-centered approach, non-discriminatory access to all services and respect of privacy. Material needs are also being provided for where possible on a case-by-case basis.

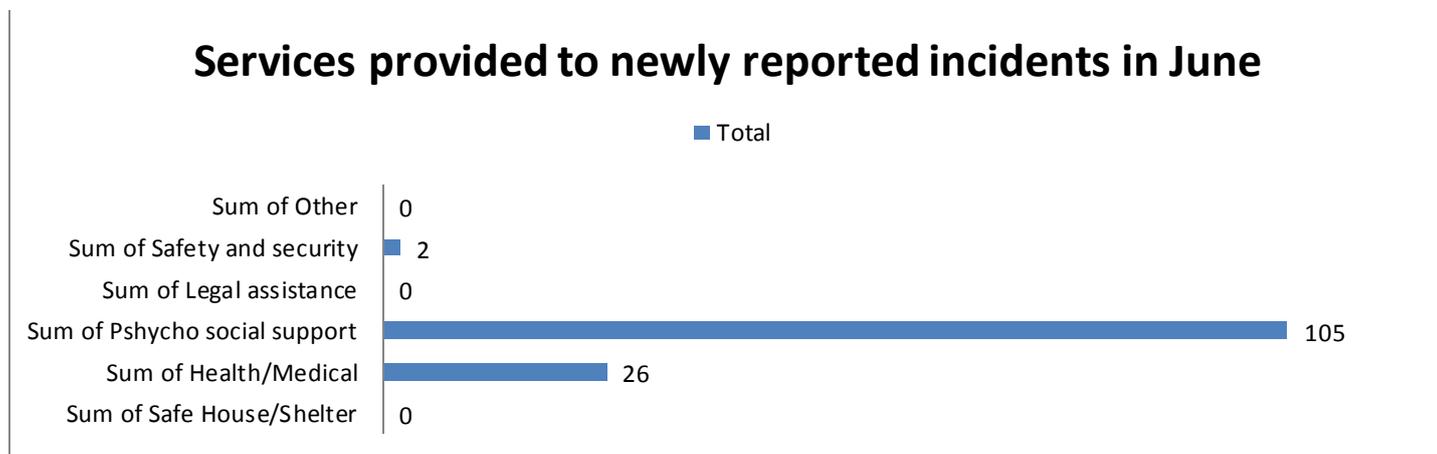


Chart 1

There has been a consistent increase in reporting within 0-3 days to case management entry points since the beginning of 2016. Overall reporting continues to vary in time periods but there is a consistent trend of early reporting and help seeking behavior as survivors of sexual violence in particular report for medical support. Provision of psychosocial services continues to be the main specialized service provided with 100% (105) of survivors in June receiving psychosocial support mainly in the form of case management. The need for additional staff to provide specialized psycho social support remains a key priority to addressing the long-term needs of survivors. Referral for medical services was high in June with 25% (26) receiving services.

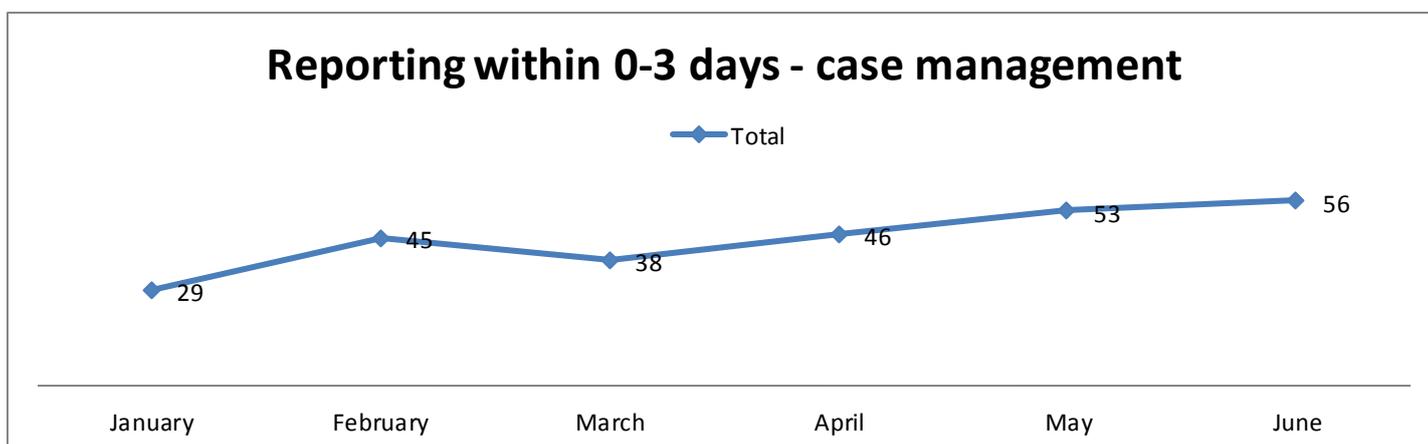


Chart 2

In terms of service provision the Inter-Agency response requires significant resources to increase to meet some minimum requirements (e.g. to reduce the ratio of case worker to case) which in June currently requires a minimum 19 additional case workers. Currently, the limited number of professional counselors limits time meant for repeat counseling, follow-up and long-term psychosocial support as the same case workers are continuously also responding to the new reports that need urgent lifesaving services including safety planning with survivors. A number of contributing risk factors require complex responses and significant resources. The plan to move to transitional shelters,

thereby increasing the security of the community members, is due to begin in July following Government approval. The improvements required in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) are similar.

## INTER-AGENCY STRATEGIC PLANNING

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The Inter-Agency strategy and action plan for preventing and responding to SGBV has been implemented since January 2016. The overarching purpose of the strategy is to prevent, reduce risks and mitigate consequences of exposure to SGBV experienced by women, men, boys and girls. It is developed in accordance with Age, Gender, Diversity principles.<sup>5</sup>

The key priorities of the agreed Inter-Agency work plan for 2016 include a focus on prevention, response, coordination, information dissemination and advocacy. Each quarter these priorities are updated to reflect the progress made toward achieving targets but also to reflect gaps in provision of services and programming due to resource constraints. It was updated at the end of June along with the unmet needs document. Particular challenges relating to the implementation of the SGBV SWG work plan concern funding gaps and thereby a reduction in the number of activities, particularly outreach (which are staffing related), conducted.

## INTER-AGENCY ACHIEVEMENTS

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### Coordination

Two coordination working meetings took place on 10 and 30 June. Key issues discussed and action points agreed were around security enhancement, increasing outreach and prevention activities and enhancing community involvement in preventing SGBV. Case conferences continued. A review meeting discussed revised criteria for prioritizing cases to be presented before the panel.

The first draft of the report into informal justice systems in the camp was discussed in the SGBV SWG and suggested recommendations made. A meeting was held with MHA, Police and Sungu Sungu on the issue of SGBV risks and how to mitigate them. UNHCR presented the safety mapping that was conducted in April and May 2016 highlighting physical locations which needed priority attention.

A Security Task Force meeting was held on 15 June and commitments were made from MHA, Police (Nyarugusu and surrounding villages) on how to enhance security in and around the camp. This meeting will continue on a regular basis and partners and Police agreed to work closely together on information sharing and security mapping. Police and community watch teams agreed to enhance their efforts and enforce the camp by-laws. A further objective is to enhance community policing to increase trust around police reporting mechanisms and all partners agreed to support in this activity. Key priorities for all actors were identified.

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.unhcr.org/4e7757449.html>

The Religious Leader Dialogue Forum took place on 16 June organized by IRC and led by IRC and UNHCR. This is a forum to increase the participation of religious leaders in prevention activities in the camp. UNHCR, IRC and partners including OXFAM, WLAC and the Gender and Child Desk police are all participants. Religious leaders acknowledged that they can have a role in preventing and reducing SGBV and agreed to work closely with the SGBV SWG on this issue to develop messaging. There will be a tailored SGBV training in early July for the leaders to enhance their participation further.

The IRC and UNHCR conducted a working session to incorporate comments into the updated Information sharing protocol (ISP) that will regulate SGBV data sharing across the three camps. A working meeting, organized by IRC, was conducted at the gender and child desk at police station A, together with participants from UNHCR, TRCS medical staff and IRC. The objective of the meeting was to discuss solutions to the ongoing challenges that impede access to justice particularly how medical findings should be documented and improvements in investigation.

UNHCR represented the SGBV SWG in a week-long lab arranged by the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children to consult on the drafting process for the new National Plan of Action on violence against women and children. Consultations were also conducted at the field level with concerned stakeholders including the District Resident Magistrate in Charge and the District Social Welfare Officer.



UNHCR and partners meet during the Religious Leaders Dialogue Forum in Nyarugusu (Burundian and Congolese from all denominations) © UNHCR/H.Burnett

### Prevention and outreach

A number of outreach activities were conducted in the community by IRC to enhance community safety measures and escort systems. A total of 1986 (1093F, 781M, 67G and 45B) participated. The roll out of the engaging men in accountable practices (EMAP) program by IRC continued. Approximately 92 (46F and 46M) participants were engaged. Measures to avoid further interference by the relocation process will be arranged. A further 445 (166F and 279M) participated in activities on increasing male engagement in SGBV prevention activities.

Engagement on community responsibility to prevent and mitigate SGBV was discussed in 11 outreach sessions facilitated by IRC. A total of 323 (167F and 156M) community members participated. There is growing awareness in the community on the role of the community in preventing violence.

WLAC developed outreach materials to assist in the dissemination of information about marriage practices, and procedures for the dissolution of marriage under Tanzanian law to mitigate confusion. Weekly broadcasts on Radio Kwizera organized by WLAC and involving WLAC legal officers, police, the magistrate continue. WLAC also conducted a meeting with 56 students (28F and 28M) aged 13-17 on the effects of child marriage as well as a community dialogue for 100 (50F and 50M) community leaders on SGBV in Nyarugusu.

As part of the World Refugee Day (WRD) activities, WLAC and IRC conducted outreach which included information on women's rights and SGBV in the lead up to the events on 20 June.

In collaboration with the Communicating with Communities (CWC) activities, UNHCR, IRC, Police, WLAC and TRCS are recording a series of SGBV magazine programs which are broadcast over Radio Amani, a community radio station in Nyarugusu which is run by refugees. Each week a discussion on a new subject area on SGBV and listeners have an opportunity to call in with comments and questions. The comments and questions are then addressed on the next pre-recorded show. Thus far the program has been well received and community dialogue initiated.

### Training

Training was delivered to 18 IOM staff who are responsible for picking up refugees from border entry points. The training included SGBV, child protection and general protection.

IRC hired 11 staff to fill existing vacancies and conducted orientation for them. A three day refresher training for 25 IRC SGBV caseworkers started on 29 June to improve skills on follow-up, case closure and enhance documentation of case intakes.



IRC and UNHCR staff recording the new SGBV radio series with Radio Amani in Nyarugusu. © UNHCR/R.Komiya

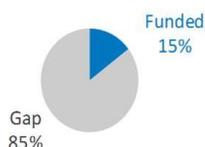
## CHALLENGES AND RESPONSES

In June, the overall number of reported incidents decreased. However the contributing factors raised in previous months continue to exist. Police and MHA have agreed to enforce the by-laws of the camp more effectively and ensure more regular patrolling of areas where incidents have been reported in public spaces, including around areas selling alcohol.

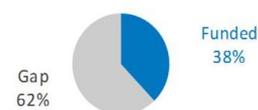
The reconstruction of the temporary women's space in zone 8 is expected to begin in July which will increase confidential spaces for counseling.

In July a technical expert mission will arrive to assist in agreeing plans for the interim solutions to mitigate the firewood issue. The SGBV SWG will continue to invest in the development of community based structures to prevent SGBV, building on work that has already been done but increasingly to identify and further capacitate agents of change. Any extra funding will be prioritized for additional safe spaces and increased community prevention activities and case management which require additional staff. Particular emphasis will be placed on the protection of children.

UNHCR Tanzania requires US\$ 38,852,798 in order to address the needs, including SGBV, for residual refugee caseload including over 60,000 Congolese (DR) residing in Nyarugusu camp. At the end of June 2016, 15% (US\$5,694,629) had been received.



UNHCR Tanzania requires US\$74,882,786 for emergency response, including SGBV, to the Burundi refugee situation in 2016. At the end of June, **38% (US\$28,402,785)** of the funding has been received.



*Members of the SGBV SWG in Nyarugusu: the Government of Tanzania's Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Babawatoto Tanzania, Community Environmental Management and Development Organization (CEMDO), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF Belgium, Switzerland and Holland), Oxfam Great Britain (Oxfam GB), Save the Children, Tanzanian Red Cross and Red Crescent Society (TRCS), Tanzanian Water and Environmental Sanitation (TWESA), the United Nations Population Fund*

*(UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), Women's Legal Aid Centre (WLAC) and the World Food Program (WFP). UNHCR and partners are grateful to the Government and people of Tanzania for their generosity and long standing commitment to hosting refugees.*

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**Everyone** has a responsibility to contribute to enhanced SGBV prevention and response and to ensure safety of women and girls, men and boys.

**GOVERNMENT, DONORS, POLICY MAKERS and HUMANITARIAN/HUMAN RIGHTS AGENCIES:**

Provide sufficient resources to ensure effective prevention and response to SGBV.

Ensure programs protect and mitigate the risks of women, girls, men and boys to further harm.

Support the enactment and enforcement of laws and policies that protect women and girls in accordance to international standards.

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS and HUMANITARIAN WORKERS:**

Challenge negative beliefs, attitudes and practices that perpetuate SGBV. Support men and women, and the youth who oppose SGBV.