OPM-UNHCR VERIFICATION EXERCISE: Update

HIGHLIGHTS

The ongoing verification of refugees in Uganda that started on **1st March 2018** has verified a total of **49,213** individuals last week bringing the total as of 21st September 2018 to **975,680**, representing **67.5%** of the estimated target of 1.4 million registered refugees. With four teams still in operation, the highest daily output for the week was **11,611** individuals verified in a single day.

In Bidibidi, verification continued at the Zone 2 (FDP 1) site. Ten staff were redeployed from the recently concluded verification exercise in Arua to reinforce the team. The team also received the support of the Associate Data Management Officer from Adjumani for three days. With the additional capacity, the team was able process over 3,000 individuals on 20 and 21 September 2018 given the consistent high turnout. However, a large number of households needed to be channeled through the Litigation desk owing to requests to add newborns and family members. 14,118 individuals were verified in Bidibidi, out of which 1,894 (13%) were newborns and 5,824 (41%) were family members added to existing households. Due to the high turnout, the team will remain at the Zone 2 site for an extra day. The start date for the next site has been postponed from 24th to 27th September.
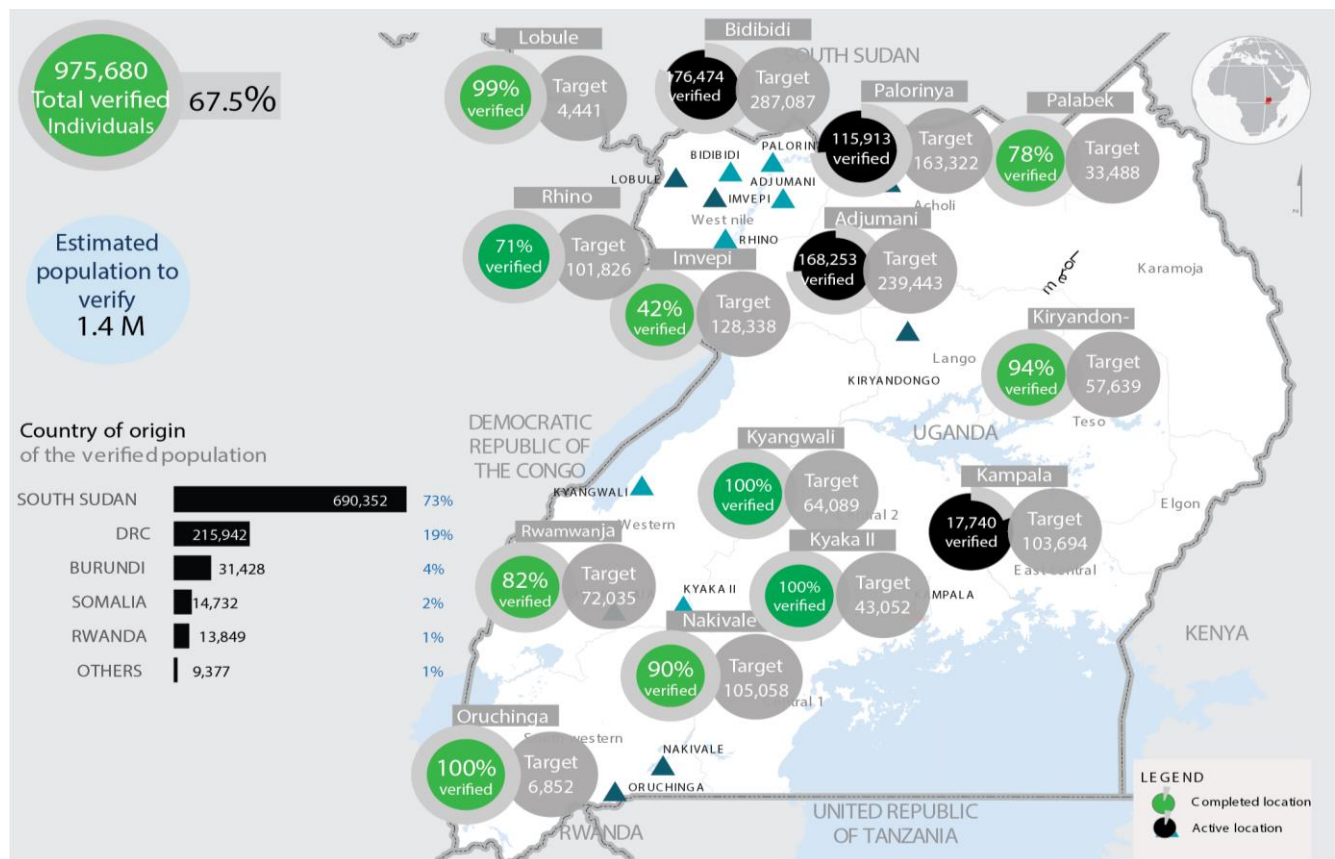
In Adjumani, the verification exercise commenced in Pagirinya. For three days, the team verified over 4,000 individuals per day, reaching 4,437 on 19 September 2018, the highest number processed by any team in a single day. Although the turnout was large, the crowd was well managed. An automated system is used to generate appointments for refugees for the following day whenever the processing capacity for the day has been reached. An assessment was conducted for the next verification site, Agojo, and preparations for the site will commence next week.

In Palorinya, the verification exercise is coming to its final stages in the last site, Dongo West. Following a final round of mobilization for all villages, the team saw an increase in the turnout, including a larger number of students.

Verification continued into its second week in Kampala. On 19 September 2018, a delegation of donors visited the site and were briefed on the verification process. Six staff were redeployed from Arua to support the team. To increase awareness of the exercise, a community mobilization taskforce was formed to develop a comprehensive outreach strategy.

In preparation for the rollout of continuous registration using proGres v4, OPM and UNHCR staff from Kyangwali and Kiryandongo in the Midwest received training, equipment and on-site support. Additionally, new food/cash assistance procedures using the Global Distribution Tool (GDT) were deployed in Bidibidi Zone 4.

KEY FIGURES

975,680 Total verified Individuals — **67.5%**

Estimated population to verify **1.4 M**

Country of origin of the verified population

SOUTH SUDAN	690,352	73%
DRC	215,942	19%
BURUNDI	31,428	4%
SOMALIA	14,732	2%
RWANDA	13,849	1%
OTHERS	9,377	1%

Lobule: 99% verified — Target 4,441
Bidibidi: 276,474 verified — Target 287,087
Palorinya: 115,913 verified — Target 163,322
Palabek: 78% verified — Target 33,488
Rhino: 71% verified — Target 101,826
Imvepi: 42% verified — Target 128,338
Adjumani: 168,253 verified — Target 239,443
Kiryandon-: 94% verified — Target 57,639
Kyangwali: 100% verified — Target 64,089
Kampala: 17,740 verified — Target 103,694
Kyaka II: 100% verified — Target 43,052
Rwamwanja: 82% verified — Target 72,035
Nakivale: 90% verified — Target 105,058
Oruchinga: 100% verified — Target 6,852

LEGEND
Completed location
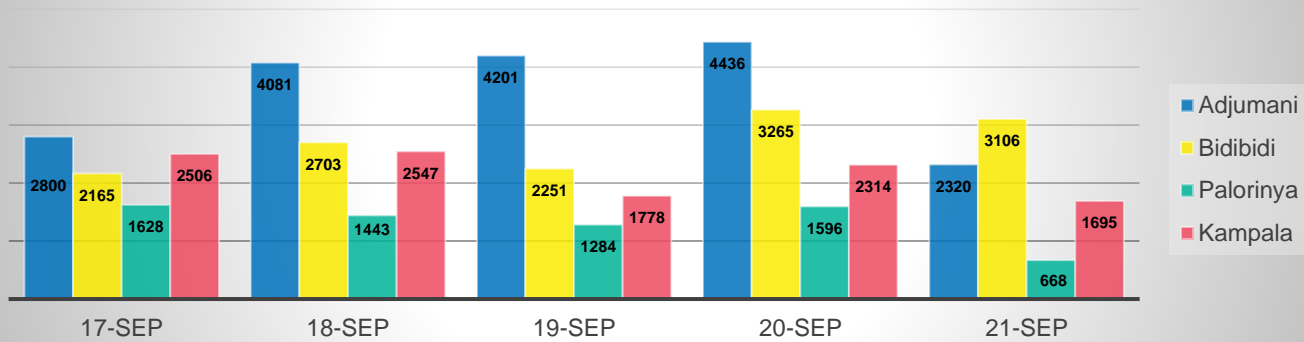Active location

STAFFING

360+ staff = **6** teams of **60+** staff each (**96%** national staff)

65+ Verification sites
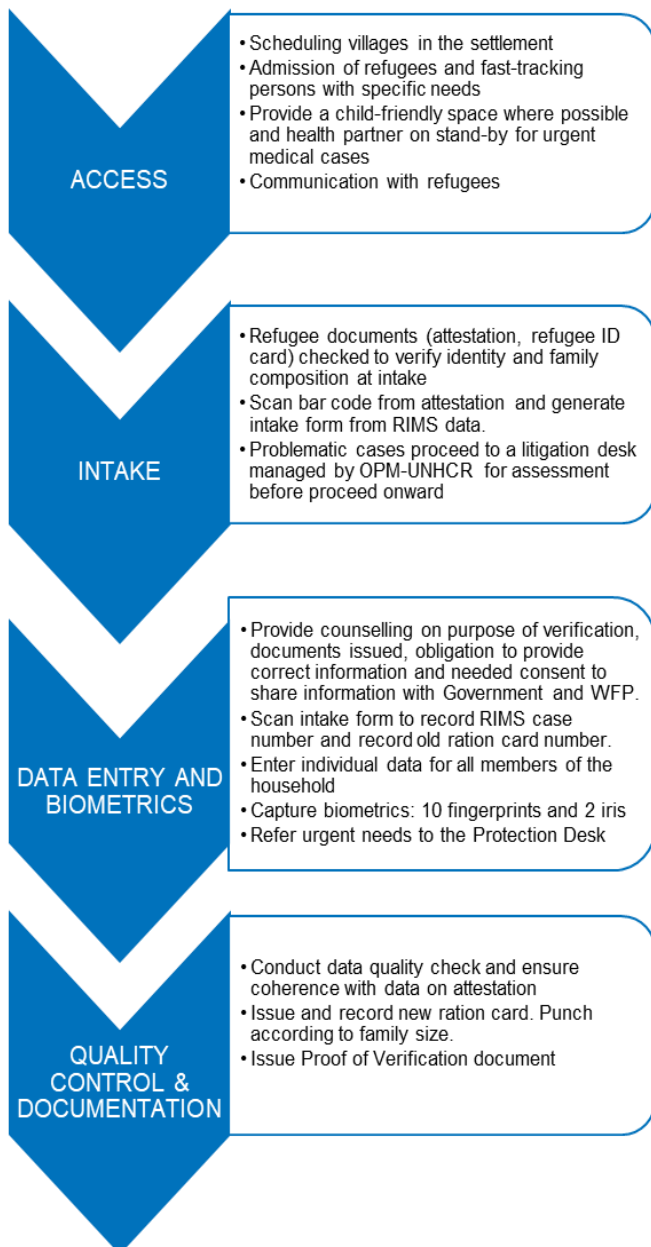
Daily Average All Teams
9,843
Reporting period

Highest Daily Verified
11,611
Reporting period

Verification exercise Daily trends

	17-SEP	18-SEP	19-SEP	20-SEP	21-SEP
Adjumani	2800	4081	4201	4436	2320
Bidibidi	2165	2703	2251	3265	3106
Palorinya	1628	1443	1284	1596	668
Kampala	2506	2547	1778	2314	1695

VERIFICATION EXERCISE: PROCESS FLOW CHART

ACCESS
- Scheduling villages in the settlement
- Admission of refugees and fast-tracking persons with specific needs
- Provide a child-friendly space where possible and health partner on stand-by for urgent medical cases
- Communication with refugees

INTAKE
- Refugee documents (attestation, refugee ID card) checked to verify identity and family composition at intake
- Scan bar code from attestation and generate intake form from RIMS data.
- Problematic cases proceed to a litigation desk managed by OPM-UNHCR for assessment before proceed onward

DATA ENTRY AND BIOMETRICS
- Provide counselling on purpose of verification, documents issued, obligation to provide correct information and needed consent to share information with Government and WFP.
- Scan intake form to record RIMS case number and record old ration card number.
- Enter individual data for all members of the household
- Capture biometrics: 10 fingerprints and 2 iris
- Refer urgent needs to the Protection Desk

QUALITY CONTROL & DOCUMENTATION
- Conduct data quality check and ensure coherence with data on attestation
- Issue and record new ration card. Punch according to family size.
- Issue Proof of Verification document

CHALLENGES

The teams continued to identify and address fraud attempts. In Bidibidi, family reunification requests were denied to 719 individuals who were mainly identified as Ugandan nationals. Individuals attempting to impersonate registered refugees were also identified and denied verification. This included 102 individuals (out of which 85 were Ugandan nationals) in Bidibidi, 17 in Adjumani and 21 in Palorinya. In addition, recyclers were also identified, specifically 103 individuals in Adjumani and 31 in Palorinya. Most Ugandan nationals are detected through detailed interviews of all family members in the household based on country of origin information.

Community mobilization in an urban context has proved challenging hence the need to explore alternative means for outreach to different nationalities. Discussions with persons of concern were held on ways to expand the information campaign and a comprehensive communications strategy has been developed. The strategy includes among other the use of SMS messaging service, use of the social media to address frequently asked questions, community mobilization by their representatives and use of the print and electronic media.

UPCOMING MILESTONES

- Verification is expected to conclude in Palorinya by the end of September.
- The Global Distribution Tool (GDT), which employs biometrics in food/cash distribution, is expected to be launched in Rhino settlement during the week of 24 September 2018.
- Continuous registration is scheduled to be launched in Kyangwali on 24 September 2018 and in Kiryandongo during the first week of October.

*Where Individuals or families present issues that need resolving such as a new family composition, a case that has been closed in RIMS and needs to be re-activated, they proceed to the Litigation desk.