



OPM-UNHCR VERIFICATION EXERCISE: Update

HIGHLIGHTS

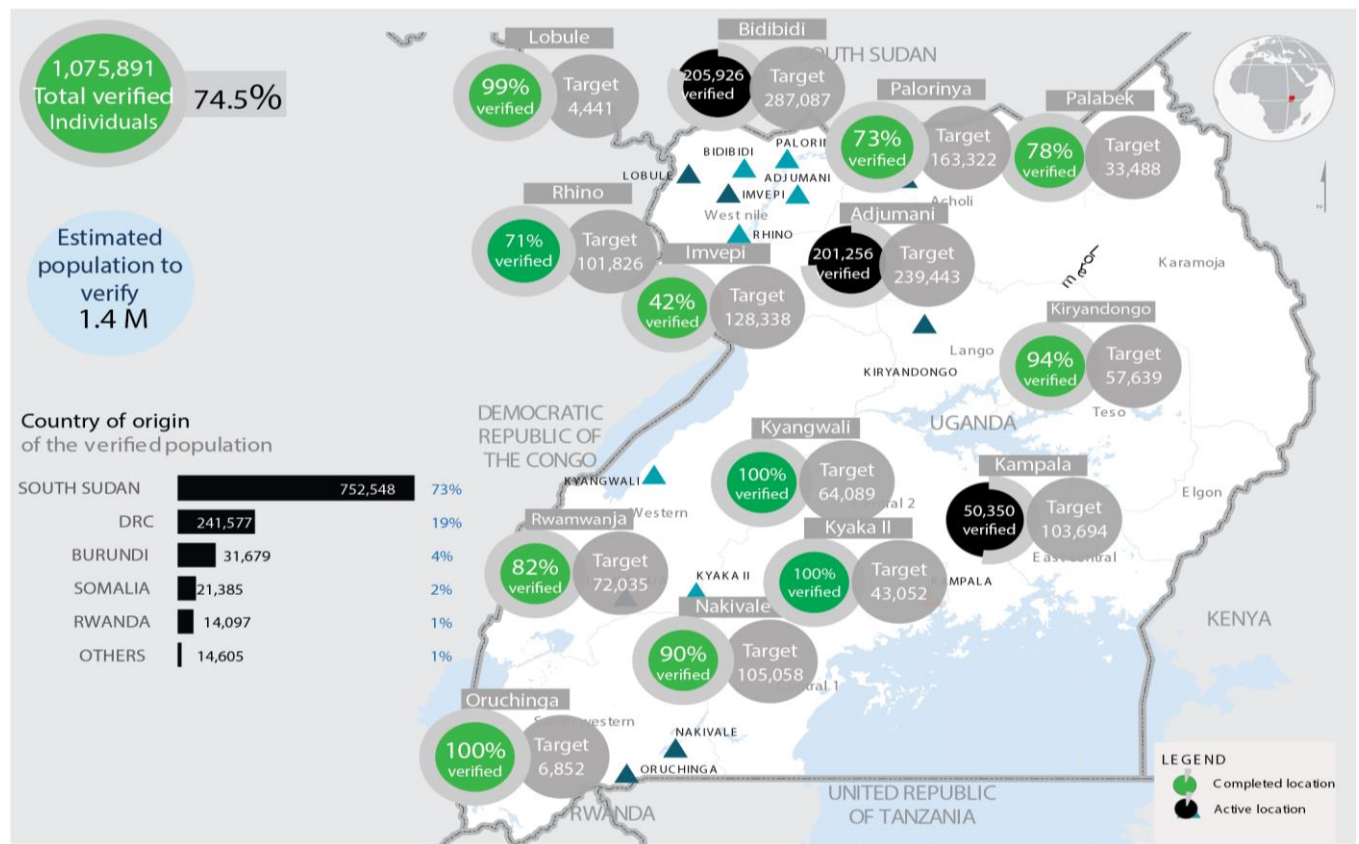
The ongoing verification of refugees in Uganda that started on **1st March 2018**, verified a total of **22,204** individuals last week bringing the total as of 13th October 2018 to **1,075,891**. This represents **74.5%** of the estimated target of 1.4 million registered refugees. The highest daily output was **7,538** individuals verified in a single day last week by three teams. Verification activities were suspended on Tuesday 9th October being a public holiday.

In Bidibidi, verification was completed in Zone 1 – FDP 2 on Friday 12th October. On Saturday, materials and equipment were transferred to the next and final site in the settlement, namely Zone 1 – FDP 3. Around 100 pending families from FDP 2 were scheduled to be verified in FDP 3 on the first day. With a target population of 20,632 individuals remaining, the exercise is anticipated to be completed within seven working days. An additional three days will be dedicated for absentees before the verification is officially closed in Bidibidi. Six additional staff have been deployed from Moyo to boost the capacity of the team. As of 12th October, 208,068 individuals had been verified against a target population of 287,000 individuals (72%).

In Adjumani, verification started in the last settlement of Olua on Wednesday 10th October. The heavy rainfall and large number of cases requiring litigation is putting additional pressure on the team. By Wednesday the 17th October, it is expected that the exercise will be completed. Additional couple of days may be set aside to process absentees and for mobile verification, if required. As of 12th October, 201,256 individuals had been verified against a target population of 239,443 individuals (84%).

In Kampala, verification continued throughout the week, and on Saturday, to allow those who could not make it for verification during the week to be verified e.g. students, employees. However, the turnout is continuously decreasing despite radio announcements, involvement of refugee leaders and outreach to the communities. Regular OPM presence at litigation prevented any bottlenecks. While the exercise is scheduled to be completed on 20th October, the last day will be decided during the course of next week depending on the turnout. By the 13th October, 50,350 individuals had been verified against a target population of 103,694 individuals (49%).

KEY FIGURES



STAFFING

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

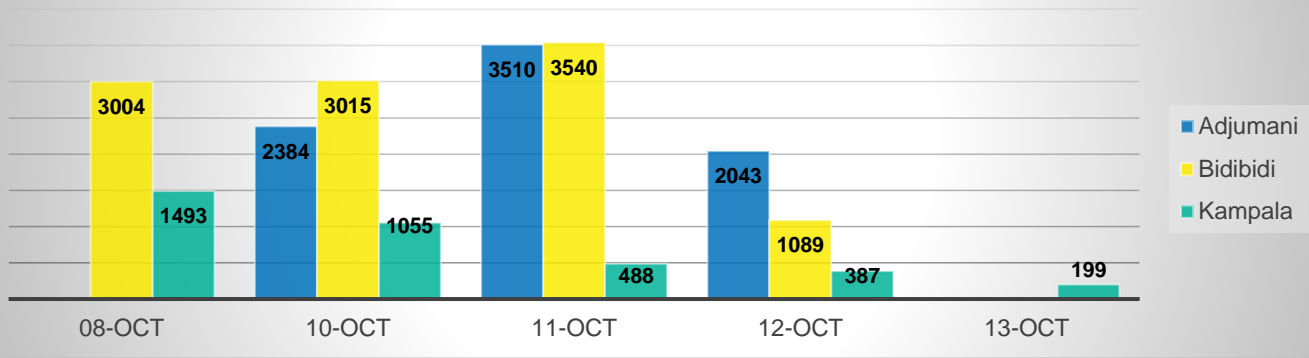
65+ Verification sites

Daily Average
All Teams
7,401
 Reporting period

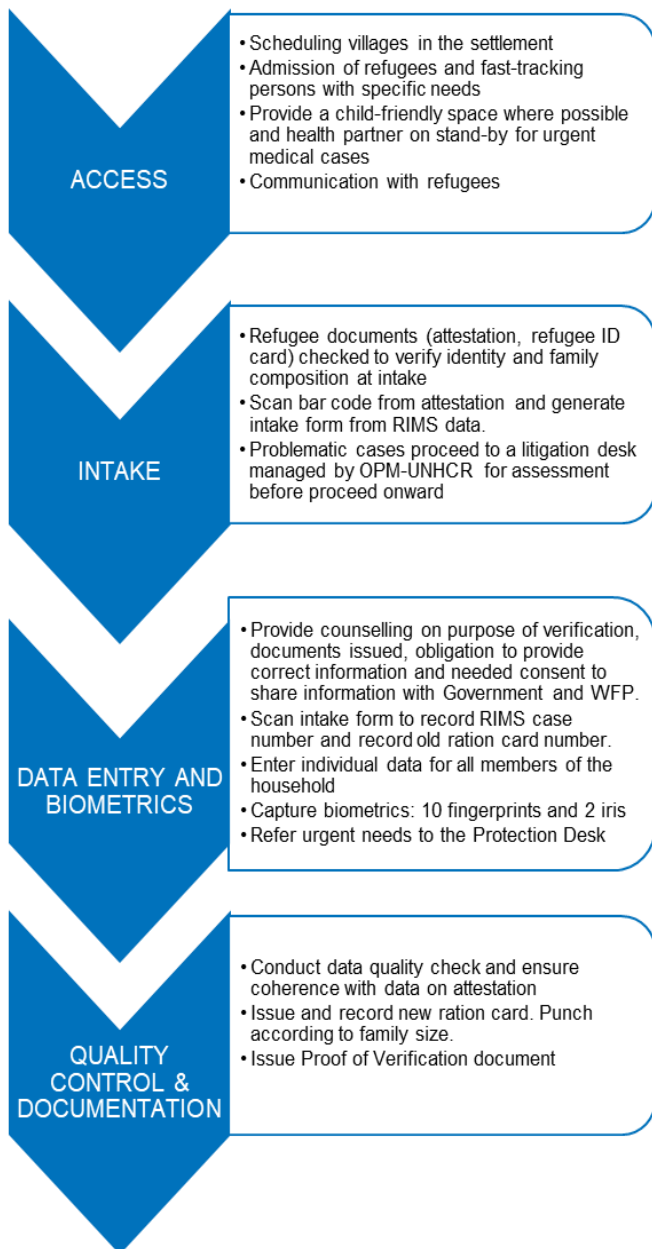
Highest
Daily Verified
7,538
 Reporting period



Verification Exercise Daily Trends



VERIFICATION EXERCISE: PROCESS FLOW CHART



CHALLENGES

Fraud attempts by refugees continued to be identified. These were addressed by the verification teams with a noted increase towards the end of the exercise. During biometric screening, 45 recyclers were identified in Bidibidi and 66 in Adjumani. Individuals impersonating registered refugees were also detected, including 169 in Bidibidi and 80 in Adjumani. A large number among them were confirmed to be nationals.

Fraudulent refugee documentation continues to be detected and confiscated in Kampala. Often, documents presented do not reflect the actual status of the refugee status determination process. For example, asylum-seekers who received their final rejection by the Refugee Appeals Board continued to have their asylum-seeker certificates extended.

Heavy rainfall particularly in Adjumani continued to cause processing delays during the day and temporary suspension of verification activities.

Tensions within the Congolese community, linked to the upcoming presidential elections, have been identified as a source of misinformation on the verification exercise in Kampala.

UPCOMING MILESTONES

Only three teams currently remain operational out of the original six teams. Resources have been redirected to support the teams in Bidibidi, Adjumani and Kampala to expedite the completion of the exercise.

Next week, verification will be concluded in Kampala and Adjumani. Bidibidi will follow the week after, hence concluding the countrywide verification exercise in under eight months.

Registration activities using V4 and BIMS will be launched in Kiryandongo, Palorinya, Adjumani, Bidibidi and Kampala before the end of the year. Connectivity needs and required upgrades are currently under procurement. UNHCR will provide training, equipment and on-site support to OPM staff in all locations.

Food and cash distribution with biometric verification of beneficiaries (using GDT and BIMS) will be launched in Kyangwali next week and in Kyaka the following week.