



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Key Figures

735,524

Registered refugee children

62%

Percentage of children amongst refugee population as of October 2018

49,887

Number of unaccompanied or separated children (UASC)

72%

Percentage of children under 12 years

27%

Percentage of adolescents

UNHCR Monthly Protection Update CHILD PROTECTION (CP) November 2018



Child protection staff conducting home visits in Maratatu B

HIGHLIGHTS

- A training was organised for UNHCR child protection focal persons and Resettlement staff on the Revised UNHCR Guidelines on Assessing and Determining the Best Interests of the Child (BIP Guidelines) in Hoima. The training aimed at strengthening participants with the knowledge and understanding on the concepts and approaches in the Revised BIP 2018, and skills in strengthening Child Protection Case Management in the Operation.
- The BID panel for Kiryandongo was revived, with the support mission of the Child Protection expert from Kampala. The expert also delivered BID training for 25 UNHCR and partner staff, mainly focusing on how to conduct quality BID interviews.
- With the increase in suicides/suicide attempts among the refugee population in the West Nile region, comprehensive preventive measures were introduced, including a therapy project for children which was concluded in Imvepi reaching out to 100 (50M, 50F) refugee children. Six new support groups in Rhino Camp were formed, and 4 existing groups graduated from the therapy programme. Both groups reached a total of 180 children (80M, 100 F).
- In the settlements in Arua and Koboko districts, all the children under 12 months born in Uganda received birth notification from the health centers in a process that was supported by UNHCR, OPM, AVSI, UNICEF and local community volunteers and the District Planning Unit. Community sensitization and the process of printing civil birth certificates is ongoing.
- Together with SO Adjumani, UNHCR Arua followed up the relocation of 12 separated children from Rhino Camp to Adjumani. Following the submission of the cases to the BID Panel in Adjumani, 5 children stayed with family members in Adjumani and 7 were relocated to Rhino to live with family members.
- In response to alarming reports that older men give money for sanitary pads to girls in exchange for sex in Kiryandongo, the Child Protection sector led by Save the Children (SCI) conducted a 2-days menstrual hygiene training for some 30 girls on how to make reusable pads. The girls are expected to help teach their peers on how to make reusable pads to reduce risks of such exploitation.
- In Nakivale, a Child Friendly Space (CFS) facility for children living with disabilities in Base Camp III was handed over to the community. The structure will be used for play, therapy and socialization.

- TPO with support from UNHCR initiated four groups of parenting training in Rhino camp comprising of 200 parents (124F, 75M). These sessions enabled parents to learn how to recognize the psychological needs of their children and handle them or refer where necessary and they also learn how to handle their adolescent children hence reducing the conflict and friction between children and their parents.
- In Lobule, a refresher training on parenting was conducted at Waju base camp by UNHCR's partner, targeting 37 caregivers of Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres and Refugee Welfare Council (RWC) members in order to enhance their knowledge on parenting skills and roles and the principle of non-violence in caregiving.
- In Imvepi, 02 trainings targeting 14 CFS facilitators were conducted on topics such as child protection minimum standards, gender equality, psychosocial support and first aid, prevention of sexual abuse, and case management. Further, 376 alternative caregivers were trained on child protection, child safeguarding, prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation, child rights, gender equality and caregiving.
- 100 child protection committee members (42F; 58M) were trained at Kagoma Youth center in Kyangwali. The aim of the training was to sensitize the members on child birth registration and its importance.
- In Kyangwali, 4 Child Protection dialogues were conducted in four schools. A total of 639 (330F; 333M) children attended the dialogue.
- 49 (21M, 28 F) unaccompanied children (UACs) from the Bidibidi settlement had BID assessments conducted aimed at finding a durable solution especially for those who have been in the settlement for more than 2 years under foster care and also for other cases with critical protection needs. .
- In Adjumani, DRC and LWF shared information from their assessments of the 5 local unregistered children's homes in Adjumani, revealing that some UAC children might have parents or other relatives in West Nile settlements. This information will be shared with the representatives from the Ministry of Gender which is expected to assess the children's homes in December 2018.

CHILD PROTECTION NEEDS

- Targeted support for out-of-school adolescents and youth including increasing their access to vocational skills training and livelihood support to assist them develop their potential for their well-being.
- Increase support to foster families by linking them to livelihood/income generating programmes.
- Construction of CFSs and ECDs in new settlements and equipping of existing CFS and ECD facilities in old Settlements. Further strengthen the capacity of Caregivers and facilitators in CFS and ECD facilities
- Increase access to formal education (secondary & tertiary) for children with special needs (including Children with Disabilities (CWDs) through provision of funds, scholastic materials and assistive devices.
- Material assistance for children at risk who lack basic goods like clothes and are not in school.
- During home visits by case workers, the following issues were identified: child neglect (children left home without caretaker); parents deliberately refusing to provide children with basic needs like food and clothes; inadequate and overcrowded shelters; poor hygiene; children cared for by vulnerable elderly.

CHILD PROTECTION CHALLENGES

- Inadequate recreational activities at youth centres (indoor games and story books among others) as expressed by youth during consultations.
- Issues related to alternative care arrangements, especially physical abuse, child labor, underfeeding by relatives, domestic violence in some foster families, etc. were reported.
- It was noticed that some children are neither present in the settlements nor in the schools but are only present during the food distribution when the families are collecting food.
- Birth notifications are issued at health centers in all settlements, but birth certificate issuance is not automatic. Challenges ranging from clarity on payment to delays in processing at the districts level have been reported.
- The inadequate or lack of standardized incentives for volunteers and Child Protection Committees (CPCs) affects the mobilization and proper dissemination of CP information in the

community. The lack of stipend for ECD volunteers was reported to affect children's learning.

- Prolonged food distribution exercise and delayed registration of verification residual caseload have created a disruption of the house to house verification of children at risk, and halted the registration of new born babies.
- Some Child Protection case workers still lack laptops to support the BID process. UNHCR and the IPs will discuss and address this gap in the 2019 project and budget proposal submission.
- The need for grading of CFS facilities was reported and is planned to be addressed in 2019. Some CFS facilities lacked access to water. UNHCR and WASH partners have agreed to prioritize extension of water supply to all institutions in the settlement including CFSs in 2019.
- Child labor of refugee children in settlements was also raised as a challenge by CP actors, particularly when they are involved in dangerous manual work that also prevent them to attend school.

CHILD PROTECTION INTERVENTIONS

- Strengthening of **case management services** through training and capacity development, enhanced identification, prioritization and referral of children at risk
- Provision of **alternative care arrangements** (mainly family-based foster care) for unaccompanied children and training of foster parents on positive parenting and providing them with livelihood support
- Strengthening **Child protection Coordination** through regular meetings of Child Protection Sub-Working Groups in the settlements and at national level.
- Strengthening of **child protection community structures** through training, mentoring and support to identify, monitor and refer children for case management services
- Family tracing **and reunification** of UASC through collaboration with the ICRC and the Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS)
- Providing children with spaces for playing, socializing and building resilience, through **strengthening CFSs and ECD services**.
- Strengthening **psychosocial and mental health**

services for children having been identified as having psychosocial distress.

- **Awareness raising** through dialogue sessions, media campaigns and advocacy on child protection

CHILD PROTECTION PARTNERS AND RESOURCES

Implementing Partners: DRC, LWF, HIJRA; WVI, AAH, TPO; SCI; InterAid Uganda, HADs

Operational Partners: UNICEF; SCI, WVI, Plan, ASVI; URCS; War Child Canada; War Child Holland; Tutapona; CAFOMI

Workforce dedicated to child protection: **367**

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