



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Key Figures

144,808

Identified Persons with specific needs

35%	Children at risk (including Unaccompanied or separated children)
18%	Older persons at risk
13%	Disability
13%	Single parents
10%	Women at risk
9%	Serious medical condition
2%	Other

Achievements in 2019

17,410

Number of members of community leadership and self-management structures (source: Activity Info Q3)

73,043

Number of POCs with psychosocial needs receiving psychological support in Q1-3 (source: Activity Info)

3,928

Number of people trained on community leadership

UNHCR Monthly Protection Update COMMUNITY BASED PROTECTION (CBP) November 2019



Persons with disabilities receiving support from orthopaedic specialist, Rwamwanja.

Community Mobilisation and Women and Youth Empowerment

- Youth workshops organized by UNHCR, Women's Refugee Commission and UNHCR Global Youth Advisory Council were held in Arua, Mbarara and Kampala, bringing together UNHCR and partner focal persons and youth representatives of refugee and host community. The workshop aimed to build capacity to implement core actions for refugee youth, empower refugee youth leaders to be agents of positive action within their communities, and facilitate engagement between refugee and host community youth.
- Refugee Welfare Council (RWC) elections were concluded in Bidibidi, with 40% female representation among elected members. Training for new members will be conducted soon.
- RWC elections were also concluded in Rwamwanja, and 527 persons were elected with 29% female representation. The low level of female representation is attributed to cultural norms limiting the ability of women to engage in community leadership activities. Ongoing sensitization will encourage more women to participate. OPM, UNHCR and LWF conducted induction training for the elected members, covering the basic roles of RWC members, prevention and response to SGBV, anti-fraud, code of conduct and referral pathways. However, only 180 RWCs could be trained due to limited funding.
- In Kyaka, UNHCR and IRC supported a two-day training of 101 (25F/76M) RWC members to create an understanding of FRRM among the RWCs and the community, ensure coordination between and among refugees, service providers and the host community and build capacity of leaders to handle non-criminal conflicts in the community or make appropriate referrals. All trained office bearers will be provided with phones and bicycles to support them to conduct their duties.
- In Palorinya, 660 elected RWC members were trained on their roles and responsibilities, qualities of a leader, women empowerment and SGBV and child protection referrals. The leaders were then sworn into office and have officially started to perform their duties. Activities are ongoing in Imvepi and Kiryandongo to prepare for the election of new RWC members, starting with civic education and update of the voters' register. The community in Imvepi raised some challenges citing inadequate support to refugee leaders as evidenced by low turn up for nominations from some villages.
- In Lobule, 12 women in leadership positions formed a community-based organization (CBO) which has been registered at the Sub-County. The CBO is involved in rice farming for the group, community sensitization on peaceful co-existence and mobilization of the community in sports.

- In Rhino camp, IAS has established 25 Bonga centres (theatres) in 12 villages. These centres are accessed by 649 adolescents/youth (420F and 229M) aged 12- 35 years. The members of the centres undergo 6 months learning sessions on basic life skills, awareness creation, literacy, advocacy, promote peaceful environment in the family, occupationally skilled and engage in income generating activities and contribute to the development of their community. The centres are currently managed by IAS, although the targeted boys and girls, parents and community leaders are being empowered to eventually take on the responsibility of running them. To ensure ownership and sustainability, all Bonga activities are monitored by Bonga support team (BSTs) that is composed of community leaders.
- In Lobule, the community mobilized 95 refugees (55F, 40M) for clearance of the roads that had been damaged and was hindering access to the community. The community members worked on the road length measuring 700m.

Persons with Specific Needs (PSN)

- During the reporting period, 270 individuals in south western Uganda (155M/115F) were assessed to need assistive devices. Due to limited funding, 22 individuals (14M/08F) in a critical condition (persons unable to participate in the daily activities and children) were prioritised and provided with crutches, wheelchairs and artificial limbs. A similar exercise in Kyangwali identified 9 persons with disabilities (4M/5F) in need of mobility devices which are currently being procured. The support is aimed at improving the mobility of persons with disabilities to access services and become self-reliant.
- In Bidibidi, mobility devices were distributed to 33(F14; M19) persons with disability to facilitate their movements and enhance their living condition and dignity. Additionally, 87 (F52M35) PSN caregivers were trained on key topics not limited to basic concepts of vulnerability, qualities of a good caregiver, management of bed sores and taking care of oneself.
- Home visits were conducted to 1,304 (897F/407M) refugees with specific needs in Rhino camp and Imvepi to monitor their wellbeing. Major protection concerns registered included collapse of latrines due to the heavy rains, need for shelter repair, family registration, worn out non-food items, stray animals destroying crops, limited livelihood interventions and health related issues. Referrals were made to the concerned sectors for support.
- Cumulatively, 14,511 PSNs have received non-cash support in the settlements of Lobule, Imvepi and Rhino Camp during 2019. UNHCR through the protection partners DRC and IRC distributed assorted core relief items which included second-hand clothes, sickles and slashers as part of targeted assistance to 2,744 PSNs in Rhino Camp and Imvepi.
- 75 (26M, 49F) PSNs and their caregivers were supported with non-conditional cash grants in Adjumani to enable beneficiaries to meet needs that are not catered for through mainstream assistance, as well as bridge the challenges they face due to their vulnerability. 66 (17M, 49F) PSNs and their caregivers in Boroli Settlement were trained on referral pathways through which they can access services. Knowledge and experiences were shared on how to cope with vulnerabilities and participate meaningfully in community engagement activities.
- In a bid to support the activities of the Community Care Led Coalition Team (CCCT), 65 members across Agojo, Ayilo 1, Baratuku, Boroli, Elema, Pagirinya and Nyumanzi Settlements in Adjumani were provided with umbrellas, gumboots and T-shirts, to support them in conducting regular home visits to monitor the situation of PSNs. A feedback meeting was held with 7 CCT members and 3 home visitors to monitor progress of activities, and the low number of CCCT members and home visitors was raised as a key concern noting that this affects the coverage and reach to PSNs within their community.

Psychosocial Support

- Needs for psychosocial support continue to be identified amongst refugees in all communities. Whilst implementing partners engaged in mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) activities in refugee settlements, the need for MHPSS is immense and major gaps and challenges remain. By way of example, during the multi-sector needs assessment, 40% of households reported that their family members in psychological distress was unable to access psychosocial care.
- Limited availability/access to MHPSS services creates risks of individuals with needs for mental health and psychosocial support engaging in negative coping mechanisms such as alcohol and drug abuse, violence including SGBV, suicidal and other self-destructive behaviour, self-neglect, school drop-out, worsening mental health conditions including depression and psychosis amongst others. A lack of access to MHPSS services can also pose risks to peaceful coexistence as incidents of conflict and tensions between communities can increase if mental health issues are not addressed.
- Matanda and Kisoro transit centres attended to 67 cases which were assessed and treated for various psychological disorders including PTSD, depression and anxiety. All cases received psychotherapy, psychological first aid and psychoeducation. Treatment guided by the cognitive behavioural therapy model was used with emphasis on building the client's resilience and self-help, support systems and promotion of positive coping mechanism.

Accountability to Affected Populations

- 1,726 queries were logged in the refugee helpline of the Inter-Agency Feedback, Referral and Response Mechanism (FRRM), representing a 10.5% decrease from October. 1,191 callers were male and 535 female and the largest number of queries (642) were from callers between 26-35 years. Largest number of queries were in relation to food assistance (284), durable solutions (253), community-based protection (201), health and nutrition (195), registration (170) and others (623). The largest number of queries were received from Nakivale (428), Bidibidi (350), Kyaka II (265), and Kyangwali (257). A spike in the number of calls from the West Nile (notably in Bidibidi) has been observed, owing to intensified awareness-raising of the FRRM.
- Activities were undertaken in settlements in Arua to raise awareness of the FRRM amongst the refugee community, including distribution of FRRM information, education and communication materials.
- The 2019 Participatory Assessment (PA) was conducted in several locations. The main objective of the PA is to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the current situation of girls, boys, women and men of concern from diverse backgrounds, the problems and protection risks they face, underlying causes, capacities and coping mechanisms to address those problems, and their priorities for programming and to promote meaningful participation of persons of concern in shaping UNHCR and partners' interventions. The PA helps to ensure that UNHCR and partner programmes are informed by the perspectives of refugees and host communities and that they address the priorities and needs of the community, and that the communities' capacities are mobilized. The PA report will be finalized in Q1 2020.
- UNHCR Uganda received a one-week mission of two regional consultants for Gender Equality and Accountability to Affected People (AAP) based in Nairobi. The mission facilitated a one-day training in Kampala on gender equality and AAP for UNHCR staff and undertook a visit to Nakivale settlement with UNHCR Kampala staff to conduct focus group discussions (FGDs) with refugees. The findings of the FGDs will be used to inform the Multi-Annual Country Programme under the Dutch-funded PROSPECTS partnership and mainstream gender equality and AAP considerations therein.

Peaceful Co-existence

- In Imvepi settlement, IRC supported the distribution of sporting kits donated by DCA to youth. 9 teams benefitted from this support comprising of 6 refugee and 3 host community teams. This support aimed at enhancing peaceful co-existence between refugees and host community through sports. In Lobule, HADS supported 10 communities (8 refugee villages and 2 host communities) with sports equipment. The kit included footballs, mwesos, dominos and playing cards. The items were part of the efforts in boosting peaceful co-existence between refugees and host community.

- In Imvepi, three community dialogues were conducted in the host communities on peaceful coexistence with a focus on sharing of natural resources and management of stray animals. 114 (42F/72M) host community members attended. Despite efforts by the partners to provide services in the host community, the community still expresses need for more services.
- IRC organized a training on conflict sensitivity in Imvepi for 30 youth (6F/24M), including five (1F/4M) from the host community. Key emerging issues included the need for more capacity building for youth in areas of sports, livelihood, life skills and group dynamics among others.
- In Rhino camp, 1,500 (900F/600M) members of refugee and host communities actively participated in a Cultural Gala organised by IRC. The Gala involved various ethnic groups who showcased their talents through songs containing messages on peaceful coexistence.
- In Kyangwali, 180 (107M/73F) individuals were reached through peace dialogue sessions in 7 villages. The dialogues aimed at addressing tribal concerns that were affecting peaceful coexistence.
- A community-initiated meeting facilitated by RWC II Chairperson, and involving 78 (44M/34F) leaders from the refugee and host community in and around Baratuku Settlement in Adjumani was convened to promote peaceful co-existence and strengthen good relations between the two communities on issues relating to land, natural resource use and animal grazing control.
- A girl's school friendly football tournament was organized between eight secondary schools in Adjumani District, namely Adjumani, Maaji, Mungula, Lewa, Pagirinya, Pakele Comprehensive, Nyumanzi, and Ayilo. The tournament fostered hospitality amongst the students and created an environment for social relationships and peaceful co-existence.

Gaps / Challenges

- Limited shelter support to PSNs in urgent need of shelter construction and/or repair and need for more mobilization of community support.
- PSNs continue to experience challenges associated with transportation of their food from the distant food distribution points (FDPs) to their homes, requiring further community support.
- Inadequate facilitation (transport, airtime, protective gears, stationery and communication) of RWCs which has hindered their effective engagement in community mobilization and participation in the settlement activities.
- Limited psychosocial support and mental health services that are insufficient to address psychosocial needs of PoCs. An increase in suicide rates in settlements in the West Nile are indicative of such unaddressed needs.

- Shortage of and delays in distribution of menstrual hygiene kits for women and girls of reproductive age.
- Limited number of infrastructures such as community centres / youth centres for diverse groups to undertake community-led activities and initiatives.
- Many Protection desks / Information and Support Centres (ISCs) are operating in deplorable conditions and require urgent repairs / upgrade to semi-permanent structures for quality services, confidentiality, prevention of vandalism and welfare of staff manning them. In Lobule, there is no static premise for conducting ISC activities.
- Limited incentives/support for community structures which affects their commitment to conduct outreach activities and other interventions in the community.
- Low level of women's participation in leadership

Priorities / Interventions

- Enhance community-based protection mechanisms including community mobilization and empowerment, clear referral pathways, as well as individual outreach and case management.
- Build on the capacities of the community and support empowerment of women, youth and other diverse groups for their active engagement in community self-management and leadership structures.
- Strengthen existing efforts to effectively mainstream age, gender and diversity considerations across the operation
- Strengthen complaints and feedback mechanisms and ensure that all actors provide timely protection, access and accountability to persons of concern, with attention to marginalized and at-risk groups.
- Strengthen peaceful co-existence among and between refugees and host communities and promote resilience

UNHCR Implementing partners for community-based protection:

AAH, AIRD, ARC, CAFOMI, CTEN, District Local Governments, DRC, HIJRA, IAU, IRC, LWF, MTI, NRC, OPM,
TUTAPONA, TPO

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