



Key Figures

828,673
Registered refugee
children

Over 60%
Percentage of children
amongst refugee
population

53,283
Number of children at
risk including 39,036
(UASC) registered in
proGres V4

45,046
Number of children at
risk receiving case
management support

UNHCR Monthly Protection Update Child Protection (CP) December 2019

KEY HIGHLIGHTS (National Level)

- **311 (171M/140F)** children were identified to be at risk in Kyaka II, Rwamwanja, Adjumani, Bidibidi settlements and Kisoro & Matanda transit centres. Best Interest Assessments (BIAs) have been conducted to ascertain protection risks children are exposed to and how to provide assistance.
- Across the operation, **14 (6M/8F)** BIDs are finalized to be panelled.
- After conducting needs assessments in Bidibidi, Rwamwanja and Kyangwali settlements, **891 (417M/474F)** children including UASC were supported with case-by-case material assistance such as clothes, footwear, soap, mattresses and bed sheets, repair of wheel chairs, sanitary wear, pants, panties, basins, jerry cans, vaseline, energy materials, kitchen utensils, repair of shelter, food supplement for malnutrition among others to improve their health, safety and living conditions.
- **312 (138M/174F)** children in Bidibidi and Kyangwali settlements were supported to receive food from the various Food Distribution Points through the litigation desks.
- **980 (519M/461F)** community members including Child Protection Committees (CPCs) and peer to peer support groups in Kyangwali, Kyaka II, Rwamwanja and Bidibidi settlements attended joint community dialogues on child protection. Key issues presented for discussion included the importance of child rights and participation, domestic violence, child labour and issues of children approaching the Food Distribution Points without a caregiver, among others. The community drew action points for all the issues and pledged to contribute towards resolving the problems with support and guidance from CP partners, UNHCR and OPM.
- **410 (200M/210F)** cases in both Kyaka II and Rwamwanja settlements were systematically closed after conducting thorough assessments to ascertain that there were no further protection risks faced by the identified children previously at risk.
- **15 (3M/12F)** identified unaccompanied children in both Bidibidi and Kyaka II settlements were placed in alternative care arrangement to ensure that they live in a family and are properly cared for. Routine follow-ups are ongoing to monitor how they are coping in the foster families.
- With support from NIRA, OPM and partners, in Kyaka II and Rwamwanja settlements a total of **1,002 (499M/503F)** children under 5 years old were supported to obtain birth certificates. The activity aims at ensuring have access to name and identity as well as mitigating the risks of statelessness to children born within the country of asylum.

Location Based Interventions:

- At Nyakabande TC, **53 (36M/17F)** children were referred for specific support such as tracing, NFIs and medical assistance. Follow ups are ongoing to ensure that the identified children access appropriate support.
- In Kyaka II, **142 (68M/74F)** youths and adolescents received skills training in making liquid and bar soap and were provided with start-up kits. They were also supported to develop business plans within their groups with the guidance of the CPCs and the trainer. The training aimed at equipping adolescents and youth with transferable skills that they could apply to increase their household incomes.
- In Kyangwali Settlement, UNHCR in partnership with Save the Children International conducted a joint monitoring and assessment of CFS centres. The monitoring focused on assessment of the functionality of the CFS, inclusiveness, safety, coordination of child friendly services, community participation, meeting and interacting with CPCs and CFS centre managers. The assessment indicated inadequate play materials for children, inadequate CFS cleaning materials among others. CFS monitoring will be intensified in 2020 and compliance to Child Safeguarding standards will be enforced.

- In Adjumani, UNHCR in partnership with LWF conducted an alternative care workshop which was attended by 22 partner case workers and case managers working in Adjumani and Lamwo operations. The key action points included training of community structures on alternative care, working closely with the community structures in monitoring of alternative care and initiating tracing, completion of the ongoing child protection data audit, capacity building for the caregivers on alternative care and parenting skills, community awareness and dialogues on alternative care among others.
- In Kyangwali Settlement, UNHCR successfully concluded the exercise of transferring child protection case management files from HIJRA to ARC (the new child protection IP for 2020 in the South West operation). 252 files for unaccompanied children, 1,429 files for separated children and 245 files for children at risk respectively were officially handed over.

CHILD PROTECTION CHALLENGES

- Increased number of children in conflict with the law and inadequate rehabilitation services for the children.
- High mobility of cases increases difficulties in tracking and follow up cases.
- Birth notifications are issued at health centres in all settlements, but birth certificate issuance is still not accessible to all. Challenges ranging from clarity on payment to delays in processing at the districts as well as long distances for parents to reach Civil Registration Centers.
- High levels of abandonment of children in settlements by mothers who return to South Sudan and/or remarry has contributed to minors being left without care, protection risks as well as lack of access to food/cash assistance and high levels of school dropouts.
- Limited targeted support to out-of-school adolescents and youth.

CHILD PROTECTION INTERVENTIONS

- Strengthening of case management services through 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 at settlements and 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 relevant actors.
- 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.
- Handover meetings with various child protection partners were undertaken to ensure child protection cases are properly handed over to new partners working with UNHCR in 2020.

CHILD PROTECTION PARTNERS AND RESOURCES

Implementing Partners: DRC, LWF, HIJRA, WVI, AAH, TPO, SCI, InterAid Uganda, HAD s

Operational Partners: UNICEF, Plan International, ASVI, URCS, War Child Canada, War Child Holland, Tutapona, CAFOMI

Contacts: Sophie Etzold, Protection Officer (Child Protection), etzold@unhcr.org,