Overview

Overall objective of the Child Protection sector

The Child Protection (CP) sector aims at supporting the development of effective and safe child protection systems, that prevent and respond to child protection concerns in refugee settlements, including in urban Kampala and host communities. This is to ensure that children are protected from abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence, as well as have non-discriminatory access to adequate and quality child protection services.

Analysis of achievements of the sector

In Q1 of 2023, child protection actors continued supporting children under ongoing case management processes as well as newly arriving children at risk and unaccompanied or separated children. At the end of Q1, 22,851 children, including 11,905 unaccompanied or separated children, had open child protection cases. In Q1, a total of 737 unaccompanied and separated children were placed in safe alternative care following comprehensive assessments, 3,053 children have been supported with Best Interests Assessments (BIAs) and 120 Best Interests Determinations were completed. The main protection risks for refugee children in Uganda include separation from parents or other family members, exposure to neglect, abuse and violence, child labour, and Gender Based Violence (GBV), including child marriage and teenage pregnancy. Psychosocial support needs have been an increasing concern mainly caused by lack of access to basic needs, including food, shelter, non-food items, access to education as well as limited care by caregivers. In the first quarter of 2023, 58,905 children participated in a variety of community-based activities, such as recreational activities, awareness activities undertaken by trained community-level committees and psychosocial support activities, including peer support groups. Given the specific challenges and risks facing adolescents, including teenage pregnancy, amongst others, a total of 16,400 adolescents were engaged in targeted activities such as teenage peer support groups for pregnant girls or child rights clubs and other activities to build life skills and resilience. At the end of Q1, 179 UN, NGO and governmental staff were trained in child protection through various capacity development activities.

Challenges and gaps

The caseworkers to children at risk ratio remain very high, with 128 children managed on average by one case worker. This shows a significant increase compared to the 1:84 case worker to children at risk ratio at the end of 2022. This negatively affects the overall quality and response capacity of the child protection sector. In addition, the lack of support, including material support to foster families, has led to frequent dropout of care mechanisms. Moreover, as of the end of March, 81,271 refugee children are identified with different types of specific needs, such as unaccompanied or separated children, physical and legal protection needs, child labour, teenage pregnancy, and child parents, among others. Meanwhile, limited financial and human resources, including Child Protection expertise to support child-friendly procedures, remained a challenge.

Upcoming priorities Q1 2023

In 2023, the key priorities are strengthening the national CP system, CP case management, safe alternative care for unaccompanied children (UAC), and engagement of families and communities to protect children. In addition, considering the newly identified children with specific needs, increased efforts will be required to assess their protection risks and provide individual case management and care services based on needs. In Q2, CPSWG will prioritize the mainstreaming of child protection into other sectors in line with the sub-working group’s workplan.

Key indicators

Open Child Protection Cases

Target of Number of Children at heightened Risk in need of Case management: 38,087

- 24,829 males
- 65%

Best Interests Procedure (BIP)

- 3,173

- 120 Best Interests Determinations (BIDs)

Unaccompanied children who are placed in appropriate interim or long-term alternative care

- The target is: 20,179

- 797 girls
- 4%

Children participating in community-based activities

- The target is: 173,376

- 58,905
- 34%

Adolescents participating in community-based activities

- The target is: 60,659

- 16,400
- 27%

Achievements data:

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Published:
April 2023

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*Does not reflect other youth/adolescent actors who report under PSN/CPB WGs
**OUTCOME:** Children are protected from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation and are able to develop positively in a nurturing environment

### Children at risk including UASC who received quality case management services (supported through BIP)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Target (2022)</th>
<th>Actual against annual target or standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Congolese refugees</td>
<td>4,736</td>
<td>4,606</td>
<td>&gt;100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Sudanese</td>
<td>17,768</td>
<td>21,584</td>
<td>82% 18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other refugees</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>471</td>
<td>19% 81%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Unaccompanied children who are placed in appropriate interim or long-term alternative care

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Actual</th>
<th>Target (2022)</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Congolese refugees</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>2,328</td>
<td>17% 83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Sudanese</td>
<td>323</td>
<td>17,550</td>
<td>2% 98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other refugees</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>301</td>
<td>25% 75%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Parents participating in positive parenting sessions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Target (2022)</th>
<th>Actual against annual target or standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Congolese refugees</td>
<td>1,773</td>
<td>6,083</td>
<td>29% 71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Sudanese</td>
<td>5,122</td>
<td>14,012</td>
<td>37% 64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other refugees</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1,462</td>
<td>1% 99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Host community</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>8,315</td>
<td>1% 99%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Children participating in community-based support activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Target (2022)</th>
<th>Actual against annual target or standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Congolese refugees</td>
<td>28,012</td>
<td>33,940</td>
<td>82% 18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Sudanese</td>
<td>24,120</td>
<td>88,234</td>
<td>27% 73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other refugees</td>
<td>4,533</td>
<td>8,332</td>
<td>54% 46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Host community</td>
<td>2,240</td>
<td>42,870</td>
<td>5% 95%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Adolescents participating in targeted programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Target (2022)</th>
<th>Actual against annual target or standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Congolese refugees</td>
<td>4,814</td>
<td>9,091</td>
<td>53% 47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Sudanese</td>
<td>9,236</td>
<td>27,707</td>
<td>33% 77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other refugees</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>3,206</td>
<td>11% 89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Host community</td>
<td>1,990</td>
<td>20,655</td>
<td>10% 90%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**UNHCR, partner and Government staff trained on CP, children’s rights and related aspects such as alternative care, CP information management and CP mainstreaming.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Actual</th>
<th>Target (2022)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Congolese refugees</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>1,944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Sudanese</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>8,421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other refugees</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Host community</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>270</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Achievements data:** ActivityInfo

**Author:** UNHCR Representation in Uganda

**Feedback:** ugakaimug@unhcr.org

**Published:** April 2023

*Does not reflect other youth/adolescent actors who report under PSN/CPB WGs*
The boundaries and names shown and the designations on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.