

Uganda Emergency Update

Covering the southwest, midwest and northwest

16 - 22 April 2014

For internal and external distribution

Highlights

- The number of refugees assisted in the West Nile Region since 16 December went over the 100,000 threshold, while in Adjumani District they surpassed the 70,000 mark. The total is now 100,327 South Sudanese refugees assisted in Adjumani, Arua and Kiryandongo districts of Uganda.
- There are currently 182 Congolese refugees in Nyakabande transit centre in the southwest and 225 in Bubukwanga transit centre in the midwest. Koboko transit centre is accommodating 266 Congolese refugees.



Newly arrived refugee children at the reception centre in Kiryandongo. ©UNHCR/G. Katende

Regional dynamics

The attack on civilians in Bentiu and Bor in South Sudan between 15 – 17 April is of grave concern. The Uganda operation is monitoring the situation to respond to any increase in new arrivals due to the incidents.

Preparedness & Response

The Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and UNHCR, with the support of partners, are coordinating the maintenance in the northwest of Nyumanzi transit centre (TC), Ocea RC and Waju II TC; in the midwest of Bubukwanga TC and Kiryandongo RC; and in the southwest of Nyakabande TC.

Contingency Planning: The operational planning figure has been raised to 150,000 individuals and the emergency response strategy for South Sudanese

was validated together with partners in early March. Discussions are now ongoing on the contingency planning beyond the 150,000 planning figure.

Statistics

Countrywide

At 31 March 2014, the asylum seeker/ refugee population was 347,514 individuals.

South Sudanese: northwest and midwest

A total of 100,327 South Sudanese refugees have been assisted in Uganda since 16 December. OPM with support from UNHCR is recording refugees in the proGres database using biometric registration before they are relocated to settlements for longer-term assistance.

There were some 24,000 South Sudanese refugees in Uganda prior to the recent influx, of which 14,000 refugees were in Adjumani and Arua districts. About 8,500 of them arrived in Uganda since early 2012.

Adjumani has received and assisted a total of 70,653 refugees since 16 December. Nyumanzi TC is accommodating about 11,000 individuals and the rest are being hosted in Nyumanzi settlement, Ayilo I, Baratuku, Boroli, Mungula and other smaller existing sites. Most of these sites were part of former or existing refugee-hosting settlements from which most South Sudanese refugees of the 1980s and 1990s repatriated by 2010.

Arua has received and assisted 10,345 individuals in 2,232 households since 16 December. Out of this number Ocea reception centre in Rhino Camp settlement is accommodating 808 individuals.

Kiryandongo refugee settlement has received and assisted a total of 19,329 South Sudanese refugees since 16 December. Of this number, some 500 individuals are being assisted at the reception centre, some of the refugees registered at Kiryandongo settlement are living in the nearby community or have spontaneously moved on to Kampala.

Congolese influx

In Koboko District the total population is 3,691 individuals of 907 households. The current population at Waju II TC is 34 individuals, while the rest have been relocated to settlements.

In Bubukwanga TC 225 individuals are being accommodated. The total number of refugees relocated from Bubukwanga TC to Kyangwali settlement since 14 August 2013 is 15,632 individuals. Kyangwali refugee settlement population is 38,792 individuals.

In Nyakabande TC in Kisoro District the population is 182 individuals. In Rwamwanja the population is 52,448.

South Sudanese Emergency

Nyumanzi TC
and Adjumani
settlements

-
Ocea RC and
Rhino Camp
settlement in
Arua

-
Kiryandongo
refugee
settlement

Protection
Issues:



A view of the proposed Lato-do settlement, located south east of Adjumani District, 18-25 km from Pakelle. ©UNHCR / T. Ganai

Border monitoring: In Adjumani, UNHCR maintains a daily presence at Elegu border point on the Uganda/South Sudan boundary as well as dialogue with Ugandan officials regarding refugee protection. Police forces at Elegu collection point provide protection and security to new arrivals. The number of arrivals in the last week remained around 160 persons a day and at times significantly less and the situation remained calm throughout.

In Arua, according to the border officials the situation at Oraba and other border entry points in the area remains calm.

In Kiryandongo there was noticeable increase in number of new arrivals with around 150 people per day in the last two days. Majority are Dinka fleeing from Bor and surrounding areas escaping the recent violence in South Sudan.

Relocations: Refugees are relocated from reception/transit centres to land plots in settlements and receive household and shelter construction items as well as a monthly WFP food ration.

In Adjumani, OPM, UNHCR and other partners continued with preparations for the relocation, on Sunday 27 April, of 3,500 refugees from Nyumanzi reception centre. They will be the first group to be transferred to the newly opened settlement in Ayilo II. This will considerably ease the congestion in the reception centre. A second relocation is planned for 03 May.

In Arua, no relocations took place during the last week.

In Kiryandongo, 171 individuals in 51 households were relocated from the reception centre to their plots on 17 April. This brings the cumulative figure of new arrivals relocated to settlement villages to 16,509 individuals of 3,868 households. The settlement still has 3,607 demarcated plots available for the further settlement of refugees. All the relocated households received food rations

and the available NFI package. The relocations will be halted to allow General Food Distribution that starts on 24/04/14 up to 26/04/14.



An elderly woman at the reception centre in Kiryandongo. She is awaiting allocation of a PSN shelter house in the settlement. UNHCR is funding construction of 50 PSN shelter houses to be given to the most vulnerable in need of shelter support ©UNHCR/Katende

Protection: In Adjumani, OPM/UNHCR with partners the Danish Refugee Council (DRC-DDG), the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), Save the Children Uganda (SCiU) and the Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) carry out protection and community services activities in the settlements.

Community participation: In Adjumani, ACORD reported the achievement that its peace prayers have made, with people from the Nuer ethnic group coming together with Dinkas saying: "We have no problem living side by side with each other".

In Arua, campaigns are still on going in the Refugee Welfare Committee elections in the various zones of Rhino camp settlement. So far the electoral process has been calm.

In Kiryandongo, UNHCR, OPM in collaboration with partners conducted community outreach program in Ranch 37. Key Issues raised by refugees during the dialogue included need to access improved seeds in time, reduction in plot size, more education opportunities, impassable roads especially – Magamaga road and inadequate water in cluster G. The multifunctional team from the different partners responded to the refugees concerns accordingly and emphasized that solutions will be effected within the available resources, while the community was encouraged to continue attending similar sensitization meetings and being responsive to community participation and involvement in all interventions by the different partners.

Persons with specific needs (PSNs): In all settlements PSNs are being identified, assessed and assisted, in particular with shelter construction.

In Kiryandongo, IAU made home visits to 12 [01 M, 11 F] Persons with Special Needs (elderly) in 3 villages to follow-up on their living conditions and provided psychosocial support. UNHCR is also supporting extremely vulnerable individuals who meet the criteria with shelter support. The construction of 50 PSN houses is ongoing with 6 houses completely mudded. Notably construction of 10 others EVI houses with mud brick walls has started with materials mobilization on the different sites.



Refugees cross-check their names on the noticeboard ahead of a planned relocation exercise to the settlement-villages ©UNHCR/Katende

Child protection: In Arua and Adjumani districts, unaccompanied minors (UAM) and separated children (SC) are registered by Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS), and family tracing is ongoing with URCS and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Save the Children-Uganda (SCiU), supported by UNICEF, and URCS, work with UNHCR to identify, register and follow up UAM and SC respectively. URCS identifies foster families for UAM and with UNHCR ensures basic needs such as water, shelter and food. Nyumanzi transit centre (TC) has a tracing centre for UAM / SC.

In Arua: Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) continued with the verification of unaccompanied minors, 139 referred by UNHCR and 77 referred by Save the Children Uganda. DRC-DDG in Rhino camp refugee settlement as identified 13 UAMs in Ocea Reception centre in to 02 families with the eldest being 14 years old and conducted 13 BIA for two families.

In Kiryandongo, IAU continued to capture Best Interest Assessment forms on separated and unaccompanied minors identified at the registration point. 23 BIA forms were filled for separated children (22) and 1 Unaccompanied Minors (UAM) at the manual registration at the reception center for the last week.

Also in Kiryandongo, over 50 boys and girls of different ages and ethnic backgrounds were mobilized at the reception centre during the Easter holiday to participate in different games such as football, netball, skipping, singing and dancing. Although there are no child friendly spaces in Kiryandongo, it was observed that the games not only bring joy to the children, but also bring children of different age-groups and ethnicity together and help to promote unity and peaceful co-existence.

GBV: In Adjumani, UNFPA raised community leaders' awareness of the adverse effects of early marriages.

Sectoral Highlights:

NFIs (non-food items): In Adjumani and Arua districts a standard non-food items package is being distributed to refugees upon relocation to land plots.

Food: At reception centres two to three hot meals are served daily with WFP food rations and on relocation refugees receive a monthly WFP food allocation.

Health/nutrition: In settlements the District provides health services including immunization, nutrition screening and curative services. UNHCR provides various additional support through MTI to health services, UNICEF/WHO support the immunization and nutrition programmes and MSF-F also provides support in Adjumani.

In Adjumani, MSF-F provided routine curative services in the reception centre and settlement, giving consultations to 1,000 individuals daily, while UNHCR's partner, Medical Teams International gave consultations to 150 individuals per day.

In Arua district, there is a suspected outbreak of Acute Watery Diarrheal in the catchment area of Olujobo Health Centre III (located at the boundary of the Rhino camp refugee settlement) among the host population. The total number of cases is 40 with 3 deaths over 1 month, with the average being 2 cases per day as of 20th April 2014. Of all the cases admitted 20% male and 80% females from Luba (15%), Kwili (20%) and Alaba (60%) parishes of Rigbo Sub-county, Arua district. As reported on 22 April 2014 by MTI, there are currently 06 confirmed cases through a rapid test kit admitted at Olujobo HC III (Isolation Ward) who are all nationals. Samples have been sent to Kampala for testing and confirmation. This is a yearly occurrence for this area. A contingency plan is in place and so far, UNICEF, WHO, UNHCR through MTI and MSF F have provided supplies and assistance to the District.

In Kiryandongo, Construction of semi-permanent health facility at the reception centre is ongoing and is expected improve access to health screening services and curative care.

Also in Kiryandongo, Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO) has begun a series of capacity building activities including training of Health Centre staff and IAU counselling and community services staff on mental health assessments using computerized diagnostic software (Global Mental Health assessment GMHAT) and manual psychometric tools. A total of 8 health centre staff have been trained (3 from Kiryandongo and 5 from Adjumani). There are also ongoing mental health assessments to screen refugees in need of mental health services.

Reproductive health: In all settlements women of reproductive age receive sanitary materials and ante-natal care is available at specific health centres.

In Adjumani, UNFPA recruited six midwives and trained them in various aspects of emergency intervention. This will add capacity to the primary health care

support provided by UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO and MSF F.

Water: In Adjumani, Overall there are 13.6 lpd (from 11.8 lpd of last week) being supplied in Adjumani transit/reception centres and settlements, with 6.3 lpd at Nyumanzi RC, 17.6 lpd at Nyumanzi settlement, 18.3 lpd at Baratuku settlement, 13.6 lpd at Ayilo and 8.0 lpd at Boroli. 67% of the water is already supplied through hand pumps. Even though some of these ratios are low, field observation and different surveys done at household level indicate that people is getting as much water as they need. Borehole drilling campaigns are on-going in Baratuku while a fleet of seven trucks ensures the trucking of water in various settlements. Water trucking was stopped in Nyumanzi reception centre, whose entire supply is now from a newly motorized borehole. All water being trucked into Ayilo I and Nyumanzi is from newly motorized boreholes

In Arua, a total of 43 boreholes were rehabilitated in Rhino camp (ZOA Uganda 09, IAS 08, Oxfam 16 and UNICEF 10). UNHCR-hired water trucks continue to supplement the borehole supply. However, there is a shortage of water in the villages of Odobu II and Tika II and Tika III. In Odobu II one borehole was in use as the other was recast after some maintenance when it too broke down mainly due to poor handling by the refugees. Luckily the borehole that was recast was put to work. However, there still remains a water shortage as that one borehole feeds the whole of Odobu. The borehole that was rehabilitated in Tika III village broke down, forcing refugees in Tika III and II to fetch water from Tika IV and Olujobu.

In Kiryandongo, 3 boreholes constructed with support from UNICEF were opened up for public use (2 boreholes in Ranch 37 and 1 in Ranch 1). With the opening up of the borehole in Ranch 1, UNHCR has subsequently stopped water trucking to surrounding villages and plans are underway to completely eliminate water trucking in the settlement when the remaining 9 boreholes are equipped with hand pumps and are functional by end of the month. With the 3 boreholes additional to the total number of usable water points, the indicators in Ranch 1 stood at 21.8l/p/d and that of Ranch 37 rose to 12.27l/p/d.

Hygiene & Sanitation: In the area of sanitation, with the emergency target at 1 latrines per 20 persons, the situation is rapidly improving with Arua reaching slightly below 60, Kiryandongo below 40 and Adjumani reaching below 30 as of 18 April. This has been a priority intervention for the preparation of the rainy season.

In Adjumani, overall there is an average of 29 people per latrine (from 39 last week) in all Adjumani reception and collection centres and settlements. Altogether 384 digging kits have been distributed to 3,840 households (19,200 people) willing to dig their own latrine. Additionally, 2,561 households have finalized the excavation of their pit and have obtained a plastic slab to cover it. Several partners have started different recruitment processes to increase the number of hygiene promoters in all sites with an overall ratio of less than 500 people per hygiene promoter. Overall, the present ratio is one hygiene promoter to 496 people, but some settlements still have up to 1 promoter for over 1,000 people.

Education: The schools are currently on holidays. In Arua, ZOA is constructing a six-stance latrine for boys in Yoro primary school. This will help to close the gap whereby the school had only one latrine block for girls, which has been a very big problem.

Environment/Livelihoods: In Adjumani, ACORD, is providing seedlings of various fruits, to be distributed along with gardening and other equipment to refugees in settlements. ACORD is also carrying on with the Cash-for-work

programme, which involves paying incentives for volunteers to carry out activities, such as opening up access roads.

In Arua, FAO is supporting refugees in Rhino Camp through Farmer Field schools managed by DRC-DDG. This is a project to grow vegetables, targeting 1,500 households in all the 13 zones divided into groups. Each group has 15 households which are supported with inputs, including assorted vegetable seeds and hoes (two per household). So far there are 24 groups; 15 groups in Ocea zone and 9 in Katiku I. DRC-DDG has also set up vegetable nursery beds in Simbili and Ocea. DRC-DDG is also conducting animal health management training in Simbili zone and will soon be moving to Katiku I. They have also initiated the procurement of livestock and poultry for PSNs. Caritas has started 25 Farmer Field schools and procured community tools, including 100 slashers, 80 hoes, 25 spades and 20 wheelbarrows. CEFORD is in the process of mobilizing for backyard gardens. Their target is 400 households. They are also planting fruit trees in some of the zones in Rhino Camp.

In Kiryandongo, IAU has a setup 5 nursery beds in Ranch 1 and to date, 10,000 pots have been filled with soil, while 1000 seedlings have been planted in the pots. Community sensitisation on environmental issues and conservation continued among the new arrivals with focus on land preparation for tree planting, importance of tree planting and identification of different tree species for farmers to plant during this season.

Infrastructure: In Adjumani: In early April OPM, UNHCR local authorities and landowners in Lato-do met to determine its suitability for the settlement of refugees. Since Lato-do settlement is some 500 metres south of Ayilo-I, there is a need to open about 500m of access road to link the two settlements. Ayilo-I has an all-weather access road from Pakelle and is located approximately 18-25 Km from Pakelle. It will be necessary to open up and develop approximately 37 Km of internal 10 meter-wide main roads. In addition 5 metre-wide secondary roads need to be opened and developed. The strategy to develop the new settlement will be similar to the ongoing development of Ayilo-II. The same dimensions and specifications are therefore suggested for Lato-do settlement in terms of the family plot size, the setup of the commune and blocks, and the construction of family shelter, latrines, etc. The proposed settlement area is on virgin land which consists mostly of black cotton soil. The land is very fertile and suitable for growing vegetables and crops. It has a mixed forest of big and small trees. The site can be subdivided into 3,470 plots for some 17,350 people. There is an additional parcel of land that can be divided into 325 plots and accommodate 1,625 people. Lato-do has the added advantage of being located approximately three kilometres from Ayilo-I health centre. Initially the proposed Lato-do settlement will be supplied water through trucking from Ayilo-I. UNHCR has established that there is a potential for the development of boreholes within the proposed settlement site. The relevant experts are carrying out more detailed analyses and studies in the field and a detailed report on the subject matter is expected soon.

Working in partnership

OPM / UNHCR are being supported by partners on the ground

Bundibugyo District

Government partners: Bundibugyo District Local Government (DLG) authorities and various technical departments, the Uganda Police Force (UPF), and the Uganda Prisons Unit.

Humanitarian partners: HIJRA, Medical Teams International (MTI), Save the Children in Uganda (SCiU), UNICEF, Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) and WFP.

Kyangwali Settlement

Government partners: Hoima District Authorities and various technical departments and the Uganda Police Force.

Humanitarian partners: Action Africa Help Uganda (AAH-U), ACORD, African Initiative for Relief and Development (AIRD), American Refugee Council (ARC), DRC-DDG, PCU/Fida, Finnish Refugee Council (FRC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNFPA, Samaritan's Purse (SP), SCiU, UNICEF, WFP and World Vision International (WVI)

Rwamwanja settlement and Nyakabande TC

Government partners: OPM, Kisoro, Kanungu and Kyenjojo DLG authorities and various technical departments, and UPF.

Humanitarian partners: ACORD/UNFPA, AHA, AIRD, HIJRA, URCS/ICRC, LWF, MTI, SP/WFP, SCiU/UNICEF, WHO and Windle Trust Uganda (WTU).

Kiryandongo refugee settlement

Government partners: OPM, Kiryandongo District Local Government (KDLG) and the Uganda Police Force.

Humanitarian partners: Action Africa Help Uganda (AAH-U), Action Contre la Faim (ACF), AIRD, DRC-DDG, Inter-Aid Uganda (IAU), IRC, Real Medicine Foundation (RMF), SP/WFP, UNICEF and WTU.

West Nile

Government partners in all locations: OPM, Adjumani, Arua and Koboko DLG authorities, various technical departments, and Uganda Police Force.

Adjumani humanitarian partners: AAH-U, ACF, ACORD, ADRA, Alliance 2015 (Welthungerhilfe (WHH)/Concern Worldwide) Baylor, Caritas, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), DRC-DDG, HelpAge International, IOM, LWF, Marie Stopes, MSF-F, MTI, OXFAM, PLAN, SCiU, UNFPA, UNICEF, URCS/ICRC, War Child Canada, WFP, WHO, WTI and WVI.

Arua humanitarian partners: AIRD, Care International, Caritas, International Aid Services (IAS), DRC-DDG, Global Refuge International (GRI), Humedica, Malteser international, MTI, Oxfam, SCiU, Transcultural Psychosocial Organisation (TPO), ZOA, UNICEF, URCS/ICRC and WFP, WTU, Touch Africa.

Koboko humanitarian partners: DRC-DDG, LWF, URCS, and WFP.

Coordination Meetings

Kampala: An interagency meeting was held on Thursday, 3 April. The next one will be held on 24 April.

South Sudanese emergency coordination mechanism: please refer to the meeting schedule circulated with recent inter-agency meeting notes.