

UNHCR Uganda

Oruchinga Fact Sheet | 2014

Refugee Population

5,215 (as of 31 March 2014)

Size

8 km² with **15** villages

Location

Oruchinga settlement is located in Isingiro district South West Uganda.

Administration

OPM Settlement Commandant: Mr. David Wangwe
Deputy Settlement Commandant: Mr. Stephen Mugabe
UNHCR Oruchinga Team Leader: Ms Martha Odong,
settlement staff consists of 3 people.

Country of Origin (as of 31st March 2014)

Country Of Origin	Asylum seekers	Refugees	Total
Burundi	79	1,385	1,464
Congo DRC	43	2,207	2,250
Ethiopia		1	1
Rwanda	13	1,487	1,500
TOTAL	135	5,080	5,215

Working in partnership

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) works with the Government of Uganda, through OPM, other UN agencies, NGOs and civil society in providing protection and support to people of concern. The Government of Uganda (OPM) ensures the security of all refugees and has a generous policy which provides refugees in settlements with plots of land (50 metres x 50 metres) in order for them to become self-sufficient.

Implementing Partners for 2014

Settlement management, Coordination, and Security: Office of the Prime Minister (OPM)
Protection: Humanitarian Initiative Just Relief Aid (HIJRA)
Community Services: HIJRA
Education: Windle Trust Uganda (WTU)

Health/Nutrition: Medical Teams International (MTI)
Water/ Sanitation: HIJRA
Livelihoods & Environment: HIJRA
Shelter/ Logistics: HIJRA
Reception Centre: HIJRA

Operating Partners for 2014

Food: World Food Programme (WFP) through Samaritans Purse
Community Services/Sport: Right to Play
Child Protection/Tracing: Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) supported by ICRC
Education (Computer Literacy): PADAEP
GBV Prevention & response: American Refugee Committee (ARC)

Operational Context / Background

Oruchinga was established as a transit centre in 1959 to receive Rwandan asylum seekers of Tutsi origin due to a tribal conflict in Rwanda.

In 1961, Oruchinga was officially recognized as a refugee settlement through the Uganda Gazette General Notice No. 1433 with a population of about 1,188 refugees. Those settled in Oruchinga were purely agriculturalists, while the pastoralists were relocated to Nakivale refugee settlement. Between 1967 and 1983, after the treatment of tsetse flies, cows were introduced to Oruchinga through trade dowry and gifts.

In 1994, the refugee population decreased to about 984 as a result of large numbers of spontaneous departures back to Rwanda. In the same year, new groups of refugees of Rwandan origin (mostly Hutus) were received increasing the population to 4,400.

In 1998 after reaching around 6,632 refugees, Oruchinga was closed to new arrivals as it had reached maximum capacity. Between 1999 and 2004, 1,216 refugees were relocated to Kyaka II, about 640 voluntarily and spontaneously repatriated to Rwanda while others were displaced by the expanding Lake Oruchinga due to heavy rains. In 2012, Oruchinga received 674 refugees from DRC and 107 from Burundi.

2013 Highlights

- 7 new boreholes and shallow wells were drilled and ready for use by the community further increasing the litres of water per person per day to 16.1 from 7.8 and reducing the average walking distance to 0.638 km.
- An additional health center II, Rurongo was constructed and operationalized in November 2013.

Sectoral Activities

- **Protection:** SGBV cases remain relatively high. This is closely linked to availability of food and firewood and the distances refugee women walk to find them. The strategy has been rolled out and information made available to the community on referral pathways and their responsibility. Registration is supported once a week from Nakivale settlement. Oruchinga has no reception centre and is currently considered a non-receiving settlement. 79 children at risk were identified in 2013 and 66 children at risk were visited and given psychosocial support.
- **Community Services:** There are currently 725 people with specific needs (PSNs) such as the elderly, disabled single parents, serious medical problems and unaccompanied/separated children. A total of 25 PSN houses were built in 2013 and 20 PSN shelters repaired. PSNs are also provided with household latrines. 3,089 items of clothing, Latter Day Saints donation were distributed to 2,170 individual refugees. Other support to PSNs included 66 mattresses and 422 blankets. 88 cases of gender-based violence (GBV) were reported and received counseling. In 2014 the NGO Right to play is operational offering sport and play interventions. Psycho social counselling support was provided to 282 individuals with different social problems
- **Education:** There are 3 primary schools supported by UNHCR and 1 secondary boarding school. Enrollment in schools is good; however, retention remains a challenge.
- **Health:** MTI is implementing Health at Nshungyezi Health Centre (HC) a government HC II and at a HC II in Rurongo village in Nshungyezi. The HCs serve both nationals and refugees and is supported by UNHCR, MTI and the Ministry of Health through the district Health office. The main diseases are Malaria and TB. There is 1 motorcycle and 1 ambulance serving the settlement. Water to Nshungyezi health center is still being trucked from Nakivale on a weekly basis.
- **WASH:** There are 15 functional water points: 4 boreholes, 9 shallow wells (8 hands dug, 1 drilled) and 1 protected spring in Oruchinga. In addition, drilling of 5 more boreholes and 3 shallow wells were completed in January 2014. Rain water harvesting is installed and functional at all institutions. In 2013 water trucking was carried out to all institutions including schools and health centres during the dry season. Latrine coverage remains poor - only 61% at household level meeting UNHCR standards, however, all institutions have been furnished with latrines and most with refuse pits. Due to poor soil types and the high water table, household latrines have been collapsing and this has discouraged some members of the community from constructing them. The high water table in 4 villages of the settlement has also affected the living conditions of those communities.
- **Livelihoods/ Environment:** Main activities include food crop production (including mushroom growing inside houses), crop post-harvest handling (mainly for maize), livestock husbandry, small businesses and vocational skills (tailoring, soap making, bakery and crafts/sandal making), making energy efficient stoves that use less firewood and making charcoal out of household waste. As part of promoting and supporting small holder associations, beneficiary households have also been organized into groups/associations. In order to promote conservation and stop deforestation tree-planting and cost energy saving technologies have been introduced.



Did you know?

Because of its proximity to the Tanzanian border Oruchinga was initially established as a reception center and later transformed into a settlement



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