



Key Figures

743,467

Registered refugee children

61%

Percentage of children amongst refugee population

47,186

Number of unaccompanied or separated children (UASC)

71%

Percentage of children under 12 years

29%

Percentage of Adolescents

UNHCR Monthly Protection Update

Child Protection (CP)

February 2019



Dialogue meeting session with children in Kaaoma villaae & Reception Center in

FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS

- A total of 758 (361F/397M) Best Interests Assessments (BIAs) were initiated for identified unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) in Kyangwali, Kiryandongo, Palabek, settlements for appropriate care arrangements and durable solutions. Referrals and Follow ups are on-going to address most of the protection risks faced by the identified children. Additionally 79 (34M/45F) unaccompanied children in Palabek were placed under alternative care arrangement.
- 53 (23F/30M) BIDs were initiated and panelled in Kiryandongo, and settlements in Arua and the South-West, for durable solution recommendations in the best interests of UASC.
- 92 (55F/37M) children from Kagoma Reception Centre in Kyangwali settlement attended 2 dialogue meetings for children topics for discussion included child rights and

responsibilities, early marriage and the relevance of education.

- As a joint initiative by OPM, UNHCR and partners, an awareness raising session was conducted and attended by 377 (231F/146M) community members in Kyangwali. During the session, child protection actors disseminated key messages on child rights, parental responsibility, and community responsibility towards UASC among others. The sessions will improve community participation in protection of all children in their communities.
- 147 (71F/76M) children in Kiryandongo were provided with psychosocial first aid services by Save the Children at the Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS). The children were engaged in various play activities such as board games, literacy and numeracy activities as well as Focus Group Discussions (FGDs). The children reported lack of appropriate support and care by parents and caregivers who are usually absent from home in pursuit of income or education in Kampala and other urban centres.
- During regular focus group discussions organized by DRC with 63 (21M, 42F) children, the main challenges children face at home that were identified were child labour, lack of school fees leading to school dropout and lack of scholastic materials among others. It was agreed that follow up visits be strengthened to address these issues on a case by case basis.
- A total of 255 (110M, 145F) children from zones 1, 2 and 3 in Bidibidi Settlement were supported with support items on a case-by-case basis, such as mattresses, bed sheets, soap, smearing jelly, clothes, footwear, and vegetables. These were identified in the routine home visits and priority was given to the extremely vulnerable children.

- 552 (256M/302F) children (especially UASC) from Bidibidi settlement and settlements in Arua region were supported to access their food ration through the litigation desks established at the various food distribution points. Meanwhile, the child protection partners continued to conduct assessments for the identified children and further followed up at their homes to establish the circumstances before recommending alternate food collectors.
- 77 (34M/43F) foster parents in Zone 1 and 3 in Bidibidi settlement held a meeting with World Vision to discuss child related issues such as relationship between children and foster parents, appropriate use of cash grant, challenges affecting foster parents in caring for the children among others. Meanwhile, the foster parents requested World Vision to inform OPM about the night clubs that have made children unruly, thus requesting for their immediate closure.
- In Palabek, 62 (30M/32F) child protection partner staff attended a 3 day training on mental health and psychosocial support organized by TPO. The training aimed at enhancing capacity of partner staffs to identify cases in need of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), provide Psychosocial First Aid and conduct referrals where appropriate.
- In order to equip Child Protection Committee (CPC) members in Palabek to effectively follow-up child protection cases within the community, LWF with support from UNHCR distributed 200 raincoats to CPC members.
- In Palabek, 50 (14M/36F) parents attended a quarterly dialogue on positive parenting and child protection concerns in the community organized by TPO.
- A total of 103 (74F/29M) community members of Ofua attended a child protection community awareness session on how to protect children in the community. Additionally, in Imvepi, 380 (200b/180g) children attended a monthly session on school enrolment, community awareness to avert child abuse cases among others. Meanwhile, a total of 344 (199F/145M) peers from Eden attended the monthly peer to peer monthly meeting with an objective of creating awareness about the children's wellbeing in the community and their rights and responsibilities as peers.

- A total 252 (111M/141F) participants in Omugo-Rhino Camp attended a training conducted by AVSI on peace and conflict resolution targeting the youth and community members. Meanwhile, in Imvepi, 61 (33F, 28M) child protection staffs and CFS management committee members attended training sessions on Child Protection concepts (Case Management, UN Alternative Care Guidelines & Policies) and CFS operation and management organized by WVI.

CHILD PROTECTION NEEDS

- Lack of or limited menstrual hygiene materials for girls of reproductive age and insufficient warm clothes, shoes and other types of material assistance for children at transit centres and settlements.
- Material assistance such as assistive devices and soap to caregivers and parents of children living with disabilities.
- Lack of shelter support to foster families of unaccompanied children. Increased access to formal education (secondary & tertiary) for children with special needs, including Children with Disabilities (CWDs), through provision of funds, scholastic materials and assistive devices.

Key Achievements:

Children receiving case management services:	6041
Best Interests Assessments conducted	758
Children in foster care:	639
Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) reunified with parents or customary caregivers:	0
Total # of functional Child Friendly Spaces (CFSs):	146
Average monthly attendance of children in child-friendly activities:	28,061
Total number of functional Child Protection Coordination Working Group:	13
Number of Adolescents participating in targeted programmes:	12405

CHILD PROTECTION CHALLENGES

- Limited number of caseworkers compared to the number of children at risk requiring support.
- Limited number of laptops for case workers to support the Best Interest Procedure (BIP) process.
- Limited availability of alternative care arrangements, and protection concerns for children in foster care especially physical abuse, child labor, underfeeding by relatives, domestic violence in some foster families, etc.
- Inadequate and irregular presence of authorities and CP partners at food distribution points despite the increased number of UASCs showing up for food collection.
- Difficulties to keep track of cases due to high mobility of refugees and spontaneous reunification and relocation.
- Lack of access to water and insufficient sanitation facilities in some CFSs.
- Lack of stipend for Early Childhood Development (ECD) volunteers affecting children learning.
- Inadequate recreational activities at youth centres (indoor games and story books among others) as expressed by youth during consultations.
- Birth notifications are issued at health centers in all settlements, but birth certificate issuance is not automatic. Challenges ranging from clarity on payment to delays in processing at the districts level have been reported.
- The inadequate or lack of standardized incentives for volunteers and Child Protection Committees (CPCs) affects the mobilization and proper dissemination of CP information in the community.
- Inadequate transport facilitation to caseworkers which greatly hinders the smooth and speedy assessment of cases especially where home visits are required.

CHILD PROTECTION INTERVENTIONS

- Strengthening of **case management services** through training and 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 in the settlements and at 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 including the ICRC and the Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS)
- 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 on child protection

CHILD PROTECTION PARTNERS AND RESOURCES

Implementing Partners: DRC, LWF, HIJRA; WVI, AAH, TPO, SCI, InterAid Uganda, HADs

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

Workforce dedicated to child protection: 367

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