

# UNHCR Monthly Protection Update

## Child Protection (CP)

### June 2019



#### Key Figures

**785,731**

Registered refugee children

**1,670**

Best interest assessments conducted

**36,000**

Unaccompanied or separated children (UASC)

**24,377**

UASC receiving case management support

**180**

Children in foster care

**6,987**

Children receiving case management services

**6,763**

Adolescents participating in targeted programmes

**23,238**

Average monthly attendance of children in child-friendly activities

**146**

Total # of functional child friendly spaces (CFS)

**13**

Functional Child Protection Coordination Working Group



Refugee children participating during the Day of the African Child celebrations

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- Across the operation, refugee children joined the rest of the world to commemorate the Day of the African Child (DAC) under the theme “Humanitarian Action in Africa: Children’s rights first.” Children were engaged in series of pre-activities such as awareness sessions, focus group discussions, soccer clinics, poems, Music, Dance and Drama, debates, and children’s parliament to raise awareness about child rights among others
- 1670 (877M/793F) Best Interest Assessments (BIAs) were initiated in Nyakabande & Matanda transit centers, Nakivale, Oruchinga, Kyangwali, Rwamwanja, Kyaka II, Adjumani, Lamwo, Bidibidi and Arua settlements.
- 61 (33M/28F) Best Interest Determination (BID) reports initiated, and currently under review to be presented to the BID panel for discussions across the operation
- 280 children in Bidibidi settlement were assisted to receive food from the Food Distribution Points (FDPs) via the litigation desks.
- 2,263 (1148M/1115F) children (including UASC) in Bidibidi, Arua, Nyakabande TC, Nakivale, Oruchinga, Kyangwali and Adjumani settlements were supported with assorted core relief items such as mattresses, soap, shoes, blankets, gumboots, umbrellas, back bags, scholastic materials, sanitary pads and food items. Some of the children were referred for specific services such as medical and education among others to improve their general welfare and personal hygiene.
- In Bidibidi, Rwamwanja, Kyaka II, Nakivale and Arua settlements, 24,778 (13,469M/11,309F) children received Psychosocial Support Services (PSS) in different Child Friendly Spaces (CFS).
- 4,805 (2,542M/2,263F) community members (including children) in Kyaka II, Bidibidi, Nakivale, Oruchinga, Kiryandongo, Arua, Kyangwali, Adjumani settlements and Nyakabande Transit Center attended a series of community dialogues and children meetings focusing on adolescence management, child marriages, protection referral pathways, addressing the increased teenage/early pregnancies, children’s obligations, articulate children rights, emphasizing peaceful co-existence among others. The adolescents were encouraged to continue obeying and cooperating with their parents and to stay in schools.
- 986 (544M/442F) Child Protection Committee (CPC) members from Bidibidi, Adjumani, Kyangwali, Kyaka II, Rwamwanja, Nakivale and Arua settlements participated in monthly reflection meetings. The different meetings focussed on addressing the increasing number of child neglect cases, positive parenting, strengthening the structured identification and reporting of cases, high rate of school drop outs, girls employed in bars, theft and generally children at risk. The CPC were encouraged to continue the community sensitizations and referral of cases to the specialized agencies.
- 66 (3M/63F) foster parents in Bidibidi Settlement attended positive parenting sessions focussing on key family care practices.

- In Nakivale and Oruchinga Settlements, 08 new child protection committees were established. The new CPCs will be equipped with basic CP and case management knowledge and expect to increase reach and service delivery at the community level.
- A total of 453 (241M/212F) members of the peer to peer support clubs in Rwamwanja and Kyaka II settlements participated in the monthly review meetings. The meetings created awareness on pressing child protection issues such as child labour in an effort to come up with appropriate solutions to address the challenges.
- In Nakivale settlement, 25 (11M/14F) unaccompanied children were identified and placed under foster care arrangements to enhance their protection and family life.
- Meanwhile, in Kyaka II settlement, 33 (19M/14F) unaccompanied children were identified among the new arrivals and referred to Uganda Red Cross for family tracing and re-unification within the settlement.
- In Oruchinga settlement, a total of 7,313 (3,589M/3,724F) NIRA birth notifications were distributed to the children in Kikagati Sub-county (Oruchinga) for children between 1 to 5 years old. Meanwhile, out of the total distributed, 832 (416M/416F) were refugee children.

### CHILD PROTECTION CHALLENGES

- The urgent needs to verify the 36,000 UASC in the registration database compared to 24,377 in the partners' case management database.
- The high mobility of individual cases characterized by spontaneous movements and self-relocations makes it difficult to track and follow up on cases.
- Although birth notifications are issued at health centres in all settlements, birth certificate issuance is not granted. Challenges range from clarity on payment to delays in processing at the districts
- High rate of abandonment of children in the settlement by their mothers who cross back to South Sudan and/or marry other men has contributed to the minors missing food/cash assistance and dropping out of school.
- Limited targeted support to out-of-school adolescents and youth.
- Limited number of caseworkers compared to the number of children at risk requiring support.

### 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, Plan International, ASVI, URCS, War Child Canada, War Child Holland, Tutapona, CAFOMI

**Workforce dedicated to child protection:** 367

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