



Key Figures

791,995
Registered refugee
children

60%
Percentage of children
amongst refugee
population

55,118
Number of children at
risk including 40,044
(UASC) registered in
proGres V4

45,046
Number of children at
risk receiving case
management support
including 36,008 UASC



A home visit being conducted in Ketomi

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- 815 (407F/421M) Best Interest Assessments (BIAs) were initiated in Nyakabande & Matanda transit centres, Nakivale, Oruchinga, Kyangwali, Rwamwanja, Kyaka II, Adjumani, Lamwo, Bidibidi and Arua Refugee Settlements.
- 19 (11F/8F) Best Interest Determination (BID) reports initiated, and currently under review to be presented to the BID panel for discussions across the operation.
- 528 (260M/268F) children in Kyaka II and Arua settlements were supported to receive food and cash from the various Food Distribution Points (FDPs) through the litigation desks.
- Child Protection partners conducted 2,939 (1413F/1526M) home/shelter visits in Arua, Kyaka II, Rwamwanja, Nakivale and Oruchinga to unaccompanied, separated and children at risk to monitor progress of case management, issues arising, and provide assistance when required.
- 73 (40F/33M) children were reunified with their families in Kyaka II and Rwamwanja settlement. In Kyaka II these included 54(35M/ 19F) unaccompanied minors (UAMs) and 9(4M/5F) separated children. Out of these, 32 (19M/13F) were reunified with their biological parents while 31(20M/11F) were reunified with other relatives.
- UNHCR together with key stakeholders including OPM, Save the Children and the District Local Government conducted monitoring visits on 25th and 26th September to Child Friendly Spaces (CFS), Early Childhood Care and Development Centers (ECCD) and Mother Baby Areas (MBA) in Adjumani. Key issues noted include low participation for the girl child, weak linkages with other referral points, high expectations among the MBA beneficiaries, inadequate support from communities, inadequate learning space and play materials for ECCDs and CFS. The team will work closely to improve on the gaps highlighted and enhance community participation as a more sustainable way of maintaining these structures
- In Kiryandongo, Save the children conducted a meeting for the peer support groups to discuss the benefits of education, behaviour change as well as the challenges they are faced with. In attendance were 102(94boys/8girls) children. Among the challenges the peers raised were lack of scholastic materials, lack of play materials and child marriages. The groups also highlighted some of the action points that included; making local play materials, sensitizing parents on the importance of girl child participation at the CFSs and the role of parents on providing protection, basic needs and scholastic materials to the children

- In Arua, 2 awareness raising sessions on child rights and child abuse, co-facilitated by the Probation Office as well as Police Child and Family Protection Unit, reached 67 (43F/24M) community members in Lobule while community dialogues on child abuse, child trafficking and the role of the community in addressing these issues reached 135 (78F/57M) people in Imvepi. Child protection partners further conducted 34 sessions with 1431 (732F/699M) children across Rhino Camp and Imvepi, discussing issues such as children rights and responsibilities, protection concerns, activities during school holiday among others.
- 4 joint awareness sessions were conducted in Mukunyu A, Kagoma R/C, Nyampindu and Kagoma villages where 298(175F:123M) POCs attended. The information disseminated included: child abuse, child rights & responsibilities, categories children at risk, relevance of education, positive parenting, referral pathway and the importance of accompanying children to Food Distribution Points. In Kagoma 04(02F:02M) CPCs among the new arrivals were elected by the attendees to follow up all child protection issues and report accordingly.
- 455 (184M/271F) community members attended Child protection awareness meetings across the zones of Bidibidi settlement. Emphasis was put on fighting child abuse with a special focus on child marriage and teenage pregnancy.
- 40 (21F/19M) ECD caregivers in Omugo were trained on early childhood development while 75 (43F/32M) CFS facilitators were trained on CFS operation, child protection in emergency and minimum standards. 385 (224F/161M) caregivers in Rhino Camp were trained on the legal framework on child protection, child safeguarding, positive parenting and PSEA. Parent support sessions discussing positive discipline (as alternative to corporal punishment) as well as the alternative food collector process in relation to children were also held with 593 (389F/204M) caregivers in Arua.
- War Child Holland (WCH) conducted creative psychosocial life skills sessions with 1,089 (413M/676F) youths and adolescents in zone 5 of Bidibidi settlement. During the sessions, participants shared their experiences and received appropriate support to recover from their traumatic experiences.
- WCH also conducted a dissemination exercise following a research on orphaned and separated children at Ariwa Subcounty. Key issues raised

included rising cases of neglect against UASCs, limited involvement of community in child protection activities and lack of basic needs for vulnerable children. A similar exercise is planned to take place at the district level with key stakeholders.

CHILD PROTECTION CHALLENGES

- High mobility of cases increases difficulties in tracking and follow up cases.
- Birth notifications are issued at health centres in all settlements, but birth certificate issuance is not granted. Challenges ranging from clarity on payment to delays in processing at the districts
- High levels of abandonment of children in settlements by mothers who cross back to South Sudan and/or remarry has contributed to minors missing food/cash assistance and school dropout.
- Limited targeted support to out-of-school adolescents and youth.

CHILD PROTECTION INTERVENTIONS

- Strengthening of case management services through 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 at settlements and 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.
- 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.

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

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