Overview

Overall objective of the Child Protection sector
The Child Protection (CP) sector aims at supporting the development of effective and safe child protection systems, that prevent and respond to child protection concerns in refugee settlements and host communities. This is to ensure that children have non-discriminatory access to adequate and quality child protection services.

Analysis of achievements of the sector
In Q4, child protection actors continued supporting children under ongoing case management processes as well as to newly arriving children at risk and unaccompanied or separated children. At the end of Q4, a total number of 31,370 children, including 15,243 unaccompanied or separated children had open child protection cases. Since the beginning of the year, a total of 17,434 newly identified children benefitted from Best Interest Assessments, and 490 Best Interests Determination (BIDs) were completed. The main protection risks for refugee children in Uganda include separation from parents or other family members, exposure to neglect, abuse and violence, child labour as well as GBV, including child marriage and teenage pregnancy. Psychosocial support needs have been an increasing concern mainly caused by lack of access to basic needs, including food, shelter, non-food items, access to education as well as limited care by caregivers. 86,038 children participated in a variety of community-based activities, such as recreational activities, awareness activities undertaken by trained community-level committees and psychosocial support activities, including peer support groups. Given the specific challenges and risks facing adolescents, including teenage pregnancy amongst others. 33,833 adolescents were engaged in targeted activities such as teenage peer support groups for pregnant girls or child rights clubs and other activities to build life skills and resilience. At the end of Q4, 2,206 UN, NGO and governmental staff were trained through various capacity building activities.

Challenges and gaps
Case worker ratios for children at risk remain high with 84 children managed at an average by one case worker. This impacts negatively on the case processing, i.e. quality of service provision and the follow up and closure of cases. In addition, the lack of support, including material support to foster families has led to frequent drop out of care mechanisms. Moreover, following a verification exercise in November 2022, the number of children with specific needs increased from 49,000 to 95,000, affecting the overall response capacity. Meanwhile, limited financial and human resources, including Child Protection expertise to support child-friendly procedures, remained a challenge.

Upcoming priorities Q1 2023
In 2023, the key priorities are strengthening the national CP system, CP case management, safe alternative care for unaccompanied children (UAC), and engagement of families and communities to protect children. In addition, considering the newly identified children with specific needs, increased efforts will be required to assess their protection risks and provide individual case management and care services based on needs.

Key indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Target (2022)</th>
<th>Achievements data:</th>
<th>Achievements data:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Girls 12-17</td>
<td>15,243</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>ActivityInfo</td>
<td>Lisa Zimmermann (UNICEF)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lzimmermann@unicef.org">lzimmermann@unicef.org</a></td>
<td>Author: UNHCR Representation in Uganda</td>
<td>Henok Yilma (UNHCR)</td>
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<td>Feedback: <a href="mailto:ugakaimug@unhcr.org">ugakaimug@unhcr.org</a></td>
<td>For more info: <a href="http://www.ugandarefugees.org">www.ugandarefugees.org</a></td>
<td>Published: March 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boys 12-17</td>
<td>7,942</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<td>Girls 5-11</td>
<td>38,053</td>
<td>70%</td>
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<td>Boy 5-11</td>
<td>17,860</td>
<td>53%</td>
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<td>Open cases</td>
<td>9,860</td>
<td>44%</td>
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<tr>
<td>UASC needs identified: 28,595</td>
<td>33,833</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>Adolescents participating in targeted programs*</td>
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<tr>
<td>CP BIAs</td>
<td>86,038</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>UASC BIAs</td>
<td>6,573</td>
<td>46%</td>
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OUTCOME: Children are protected from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation and are able to develop positively in a nurturing environment

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Congolese refugees</td>
<td>3,578</td>
<td>6,573</td>
<td>ActivityInfo</td>
<td>Lisa Zimmermann (UNICEF)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lzimmermann@unicef.org">lzimmermann@unicef.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>- South Sudanese refugees</td>
<td>34,471</td>
<td>30,561</td>
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<td>- Other refugees</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>663</td>
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Achievements data: ActivityInfo | Author: UNHCR Representation in Uganda | Feedback: ugakaimug@unhcr.org | For more info: www.ugandarefugees.org | Published: March 2023 | *Does not reflect other youth/adolescent actors who report under PSN/CPB WGs |
Parents participating in positive parenting sessions

- Congolese refugees: 7,327 / 6,083
- South Sudanese refugees: 26,937 / 14,012
- Other refugees: 0 / 1,462
- Host community: 6,961 / 9,238

Children participating in community-based support activities

- Congolese refugees: 32,655 / 33,940
- South Sudanese refugees: 51,464 / 88,234
- Other refugees: 3 / 8,332
- Host community: 1,916 / 42,870

Adolescents participating in targeted programs

- Congolese refugees: 22,684 / 12,926
- South Sudanese refugees: 9,725 / 37,060
- Other refugees: 0 / 3,562
- Host community: 1,424 / 22,949

OUTCOME: Children are protected from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation and are able to develop positively in a nurturing environment.

Indicator                  Actual     Target (2022)  Actual against annual target or standard
- Unaccompanied children who are placed in appropriate interim or long-term alternative care
  - Congolese and other refugees: 243 / 3,322
  - South Sudanese refugees: 11,913 / 24,849
  - Burundian refugees: 0 / 424

- Female (50%)
- Male (50%)

UNHCR, partner and Government staff trained on CP, children’s rights and related aspects such as alternative care, CP information management and CP mainstreaming.

- Congolese refugees: 617 / 2,048
- South Sudanese refugees: 857 / 9,356
- Other refugees: 0 / 73
- Host community: 678 / 300

Achievements data: ActivityInfo
Sector contacts: Lisa Zimmermann (UNICEF) lzimmermann@unicef.org
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