Protection risks

Introduction

This thematic analysis document examines key protection risk evidence from recent years, including access to asylum/registration/RSD, Child Protection, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs), Gender-Based Violence (GBV), safety in the home and community, and access to information and complaints and feedback mechanisms (CFMs).

It is based on secondary data sources including multi-sectoral, crisis-wide assessments. These primarily include the 2021/2022 Verification/Individual Profiling exercise (IPE - UNHCR), the 2022 Participatory Assessment (UNHCR, IMPACT-REACH), the High Frequency Phone Survey (HFPS) Round 1 – 3 (World Bank), and the Inter-Agency Feedback, Referral and Resolution Mechanism (FRRM) Dashboard (OPM, UNHCR), and various regular thematic factsheets by UNHCR.

Key Findings

Child Protection

The main protection risks for children include separation from parents and families, neglect or abandonment of children, violence against children at home and within the community, exposure to harmful traditional practices, including child marriage, exposure to different types of GBV, teenage pregnancy, child labour as well as high levels of emotional distress. Children aged 12-17 years of age are more likely to engage in child labour compared to those aged 5-11 years, and a small proportion of those engaging in child labour perform hazardous tasks, including garbage collection, heavy lifting, and exposure to extreme conditions and noise.

Gender Based Violence

The refugee populations in Uganda, largely made up of women and children, are highly vulnerable to GBV, including persons with specific needs. According to FRRM data, 456 GBV/SEA referrals were logged between Jan-July 2023. This constitutes an increase from 338 such referrals within the same timeframe in 2022. Factors including fear of stigma, shame, family reaction and dissolution, perception of GBV as a private matter, or lack of confidence in reporting channels result in an underreporting of GBV cases.

PSN

Key challenges identified for PSNs are barriers in accessing services, particularly mobility challenges, and distributions of assistance, challenges in accessing information, barriers in accessing livelihoods (particularly for older refugees and refugees with disabilities), increased risks of violence and GBV (particularly

for women and girls with disabilities) and need for psycho-social support. Identified challenges for children with disabilities include accessing education and neglect and bullying.

MPHSS

The leading triggers to suicide cases include family disagreements, lack of basic needs, previous mental illness, abandonment by spouse and substance abuse. According to FRRM data, 126 MHPSS referrals were logged between Jan-July 2023. This constitutes a decrease from 153 such referrals within the same timeframe in 2022. PA data suggests that the majority of those needing mental health or psychosocial support experienced issues in accessing the services needed. The decrease in year-to-year MPHSS referrals could be related to the reluctance in refugees, particularly males, seeking out services due to fear of stigma.

Social Cohesion

Between refugees and host communities, tensions exist due to competition over limited natural resources, as well as real and perceived perceptions that refugees are being given more services than Ugandans. Within refugee communities, inter/intra-ethnic tensions remain a concern, with sources of tensions including increasing cost of living, reduction in information sharing, cultural misunderstandings, competition over resources and not speaking the same language. Moreover, there is a real and perceived perception that refugees are being given more services than Ugandans.

Safety at home and in communities

Theft, home break-ins, physical violence and verbal violence are the most common security challenges faced by PA respondents. Moreover, refugees feel less safe walking alone at night both inside their area and outside of their area compared to during the daylight hours. The number of refugees engaging in higher risk, illegal or exploitative jobs, as well as transactional and survival sex, are higher in Southwest Uganda compared to other regions of the country.

Complaints and Feedback Mechanism

Phone lines and complaint boxes are the most popular ways of providing complaints and feedback among PA respondents, alongside providing feedback face-to-face at home with an aid worker or at the protection desk. Despite almost half of respondents having used the CFM in the past 6 months, over half of them experienced dissatisfaction with the response received. Reasons for this included nothing changing as a result of the complaint, not receiving a response, and the response not corresponding to the complaint or feedback provided. According to FRRM Data, the 2023 cuts and reprioritization in GFA may be related to the increase in year-to-year referrals.

Situation analysis:

Access to asylum procedures including reception, registration, and refugee status determination (RSD)

<table>
<tr><td colspan="3">Country border & admission of asylum-seekers</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">General overview of government policies and decisions related to asylum:
According to FRRM data, 3,785 registration/resettlement/RSD referrals were logged between Jan-July 2023. This constitutes a minor decrease from 3907 such referrals within the same timeframe in 2022.
Overall, the protection analysis reveals that refugees and asylum-seekers in Uganda are highly vulnerable as highlighted in the end of June 2023 OPM/UNHCR Uganda Refugee/Asylum Seekers Population statistics[1].
Uganda is a State Party to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, as well as to the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa. Under the Refugees Act of 2006, Uganda's asylum policies uphold key rights, including freedom of movement and expression.
In February 2010 the Government issued new regulations to give effect to the 2006 Refugees Act. The legislation conforms to international refugee law and recognizes persecution based on gender as grounds for asylum.
On 23 May 2023, the President signed the Anti-Homosexuality Bill into an Act. On 26 May 2023, it was published in the Uganda Gazette, and it became enforceable.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">Key statistics that help to understand access to asylum are included below:</td></tr>
<tr><td>UNHCR Uganda Refugee Statistics</td><td><u># of asylum seekers</u>
30 June 2023: 48,953
2022: 32,165
2021: 22,515 ind.
2020: 25,241 ind. Highest # of arrivals until March
2019: 21 658 ind. Highest # of arrivals in May and lowest in December</td><td><u># of refugees registered</u>
31 July 2023: 1,578,661
2022: 1,463,523
2021: 1,471,990 (94% of the target has been achieved)
2020: 1,446,378 (97% of the target was achieved)
2019: 1,359,464 (105% over the target was achieved)
*Refugee statistics by settlement is included in the annex</td></tr>
</table>

[1] OPM/UNHCR Uganda Refugee/Asylum Seekers Population Statistics.

	<u>Persons that have access to RSD procedures</u>[2] June 2023: 48,953 pending RSD process 2022: 90% to date have access to RSD (out of 32,169) 2021: 10% to date have access to RSD (out of a target of 31,249) 2020: 73% of those who needed access to RSD procedures were able to receive them (21,941 ind compared with target of 29, 687 ind) 2019: 33% of the target were able to access RSD procedures (45,771 ind compared to the target of 138,700) UNHCR participated in both the REC and RAB sessions as an observer and provided financial and technical support to the team.

Barriers to accessing national asylum procedures:

- The COVID-19 prevention measures introduced by the government in 2020 and 2021, such as the closure of borders, suspension of registration and RSD and restriction on movements affected asylum processes. This resulted in the RSD backlog.
- In 2021, 2022 and 2023, the budgets for RSD activities were reduced significantly due to funding constraints. REC and RAB had planned for more sessions and the same were reduced due to limited funding.
- Due to limited interview space and the need to adhere to COVID 19 protocols notably social distancing, the Refugee Eligibility Officers reduced the number of cases they interviewed per day.
- Currently there are only 4 interview rooms that are shared by the 8 Refugee Eligibility Officers. The RSD team in collaboration with the UNHCR Protection have developed a schedule that ensures that the interviews are conducted in a safe environment in adherence to the protocols.

Access to Documentation

- Government of Uganda is in charge of providing refugees and asylum seeker documentation.
- Refugees and asylum seekers can obtain health cards, short birth certificates after giving birth. A legal birth certificate is not a requirement to register new births with OPM in the refugee settlements however it is an administrative requirement to register new births in the Urban areas.
- The coverage of refugee ID cards country-wide increased from 42% at the end of 2021 to 77% at the end of 2022. This was as a result of issuance of 474,188 refugee ID cards in 2022. Total valid refugee ID cards as of end of 2022 was 508,000 out of an eligible population of 662,000 refugees aged 16 years and above.
- OPM printed and issued 41,133 (24,053f, 17,080m) Refugee Identity Cards to refugees who are above 16 years.
- In Bidibidi, UNHCR in-close coordination with OPM/ NIRA and partners processed and issued a total of 10,064 birth certificates for refugee children of 5 years and below to prevent the risk of statelessness.

[2] Q4 2020 RRP Dashboard UPDATE

Child Protection[3]

General overview of the number of refugees children in Uganda:

- Between Jan-July 2023, 789 child protection referrals were made according to FRRM data, compared to 671 in the same period in 2022.
- According to ProGres v4, as of June 2023, children make up over 56% (880,325) of all refugees and asylum-seekers registered in Uganda.[4]

General findings:

- The main protection risks for children include separation from parents and families, neglect or abandonment of children, violence against children at home and within the community, exposure to harmful traditional practices, including child marriage, exposure to different types of GBV, teenage pregnancy, child labour as well as high levels of emotional distress.
- Children aged 12-17 years of age are more likely to engage in child labour compared to those aged 5-11 years, and a small proportion of those engaging in child labour perform hazardous tasks, including garbage collection, heavy lifting, and exposure to extreme conditions and noise.
- Investment is essential to meet the specific protection needs of children. However, it's worth noting that despite a significant number of children being at risk, the provision of case management support has reached only a limited number of children. This highlights the critical need for increased resources and efforts to ensure the comprehensive protection and well-being of vulnerable children.

[3] Child protection is the prevention of and response to violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation of children. In the context of displacements, this also includes ensuring refugee children's basic needs are met, they access national services without discrimination and that their specific needs are considered.

[4] Child Protection - External Child Protection Dashboard - proGres v4, June 2023

Figure: Children with specific needs disaggregated by locations, June 2023- UNHCR

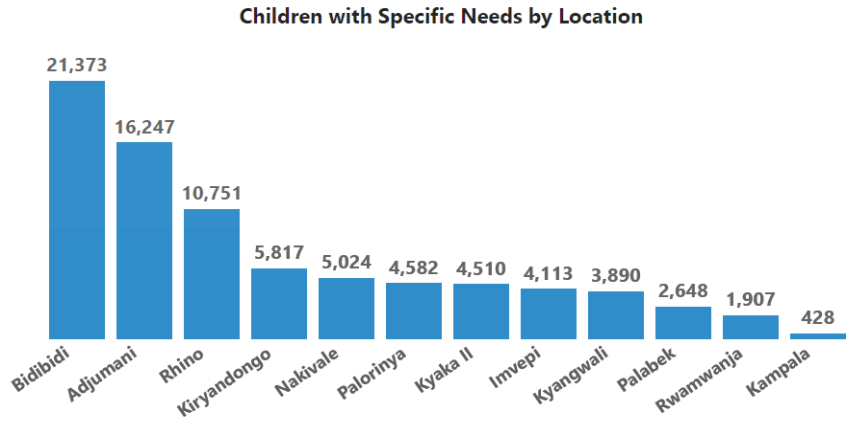
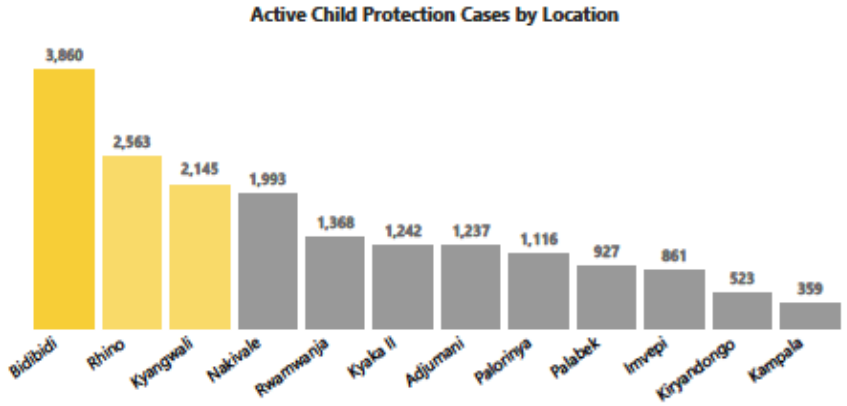


Figure: Active child protection cases, by location, June 2023- UNHCR



RRP Q2 Dashboard (Jan-June 2023)	**Child Protection cases (ProGres):** • As of June 2023, UNHCR database documented a total of 81,290 children identified with different types of specific needs, such as unaccompanied or separated children (69,011), children at risks such as child labour, teenage pregnancy, and child parents, among others (14,845) and physical and legal protection needs (1,196). Additionally, a total of 28997 children (13314 girls and 15,679) identified assigned specific needs related to disabilities. • As of June, a substantial number of 18,194 children (comprising 9,203 girls and 8,991 boys) are currently benefiting from child protection case management provided by UNHCR and its partner organizations. However, it's important to note that budget reductions within the child protection sector for 2023 have significantly impacted the capacity of both UNHCR and its partners to effectively address child protection concerns. A notable challenge arising from these budget constraints is the increased caseload for case workers, with one case worker now managing an average of 128 children, in contrast to the 1:84 ratio recorded at the end of 2022.[5] **Child labour** • UNHCR's partners have noted a rise in child protection issues, particularly neglect and child labor. This increase is believed to be linked to the implementation of food prioritization measures by WFP. It underscores the need for close monitoring and addressing potential challenges to protect vulnerable children effectively. • As of the end of June 2023, OPM/UNHCR ProGres indicated a total of 12,383 specific needs associated with child labor. 7,618 children have been identified as being at risk of or exposed to the worst forms of child labor, while 4,765 children are engaged in other forms of child labor. In terms of geographical location, the highest recorded numbers of child labor cases were found in various refugee settlements and regions across Uganda. Bidibidi reported the highest incidence with 2,895 cases, followed by Nakivali with 2,003 cases, Adjumani with 1,885 cases, Kyaka 11 with 1,486 cases, Palorinya with 1,372 cases, and Kyangwali with 906 cases. Additionally, Palabek reported 656 cases, Rwamanja had 599 cases, Rhino recorded 258 cases, Impevi noted 221 cases, Kiryandongo had 127 cases, and Kampala reported 5 cases. These figures reflect the distribution of child labor cases in different regions, emphasizing the need for targeted intervention and support to address this concerning issue.

[5] RRP Q2 Dashboard (Jan- June 2023)

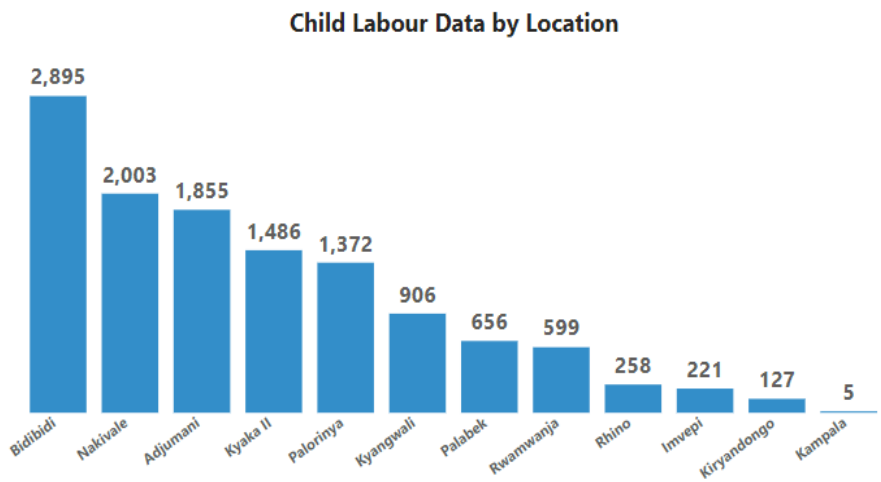
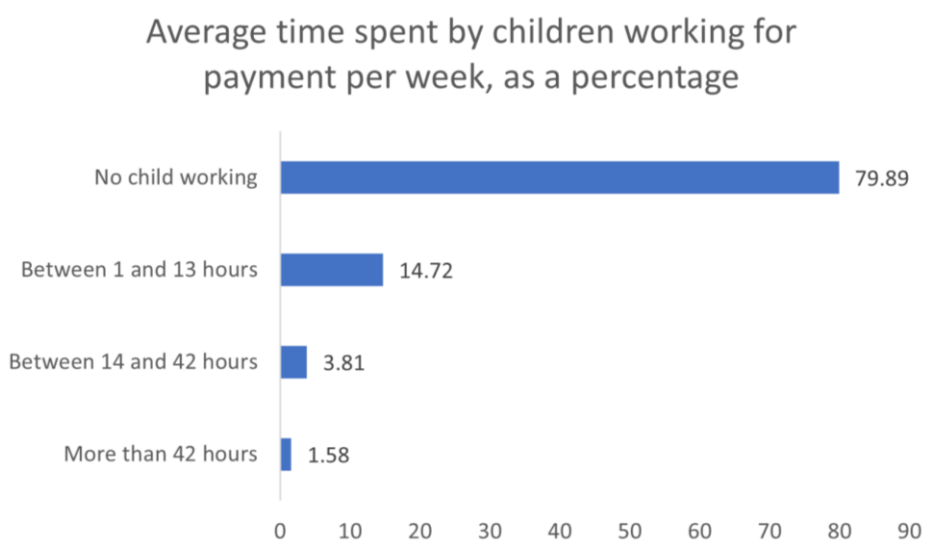
	Figure: Child labour data, by location, June 2023- RRP Q2 Dashboard 
IPE Verification Data (2021-2)	**Child Labor** • The vast majority (99%) of children aged five to eleven were reported to not be working to support the household for payment, and 96% of children aged twelve to seventeen were also not reported to be working to support the household for payment, while 4% were. Across all locations, Palabek had the highest percentage (13%) of children aged 5-17 working to support the household for payment. • Of the children aged five to eleven, 91% were reported to not work, while 8% spent 1-13 hours working per week, and 1% working 14-42 hours. • Of the children aged twelve to seventeen, 69% were reported to not work, while 25% spent 1-13 hours working per week, and 5% spent between 14-42 hours working. • A small percentage (4%) of these children were reported to be involved with collecting or sorting garbage, carrying heavy loads, being exposed to extreme heat or humidity, or being exposed to loud noise and vibrations while conducting their work. • Of children aged five to eleven, 99% were not reported to be engaged in child labor, and 1% were. Of children aged twelve to seventeen, however, 95% were not reported to be engaged in child labor, while 5% were.

Figure: Average time spent by children working for payment per week, as a percentage, IPE Verification Data, 2021-2022



Child Marriage

- 3% of female members of the household aged under 18 years of age were reported to have gotten married to ensure the financial security of the household, or to keep the pressure off the household.
- The highest percentage of female members under the age of 18 getting married to alleviate household pressure was in Lobule, at 13.95%, followed by those in Oruchinga at 6.86%.

Gender Based Violence

General overview:

- According to FRRM data, 456 GBV/SEA referrals were logged between Jan-July 2023. This constitutes a decrease from 338 such referrals within the same timeframe in 2022.
- A significant reduction in resources is impacting targeted and timely response to survivors. There has been a 37% ($ 550,710) decrease in GBV funding from 2022 ($ 1,491,483) to 2023 ($ 940,773) for the entire operation. These constraints have been compounded by the ongoing influx of refugees from both DRC and SSD.

<table>
<tr><td colspan="2">

- With significant numbers of women and children, the refugee populations in Uganda are highly vulnerable to GBV, including persons with specific needs.
- Factors including fear of stigma, shame, family reaction and dissolution, perception of GBV as a private matter, or lack of confidence in reporting channels result in an underreporting of GBV cases.

</td></tr>
<tr><td>PA 2022</td><td>

- 9.9% of respondents cited GBV as a security issue experienced in the six months prior to data collection.
- GBV as a security difficulty faced by respondents and household members is reported most in Bidibidi and Palorinya. The majority of respondents (59.2%) are aware of community mobilization for information sharing on GBV, and 46.6% were aware of women and girls' centers. There was no significant difference between male and female respondents.

Figure 13 - % of respondents aware of GBV sensitization activities available in their area

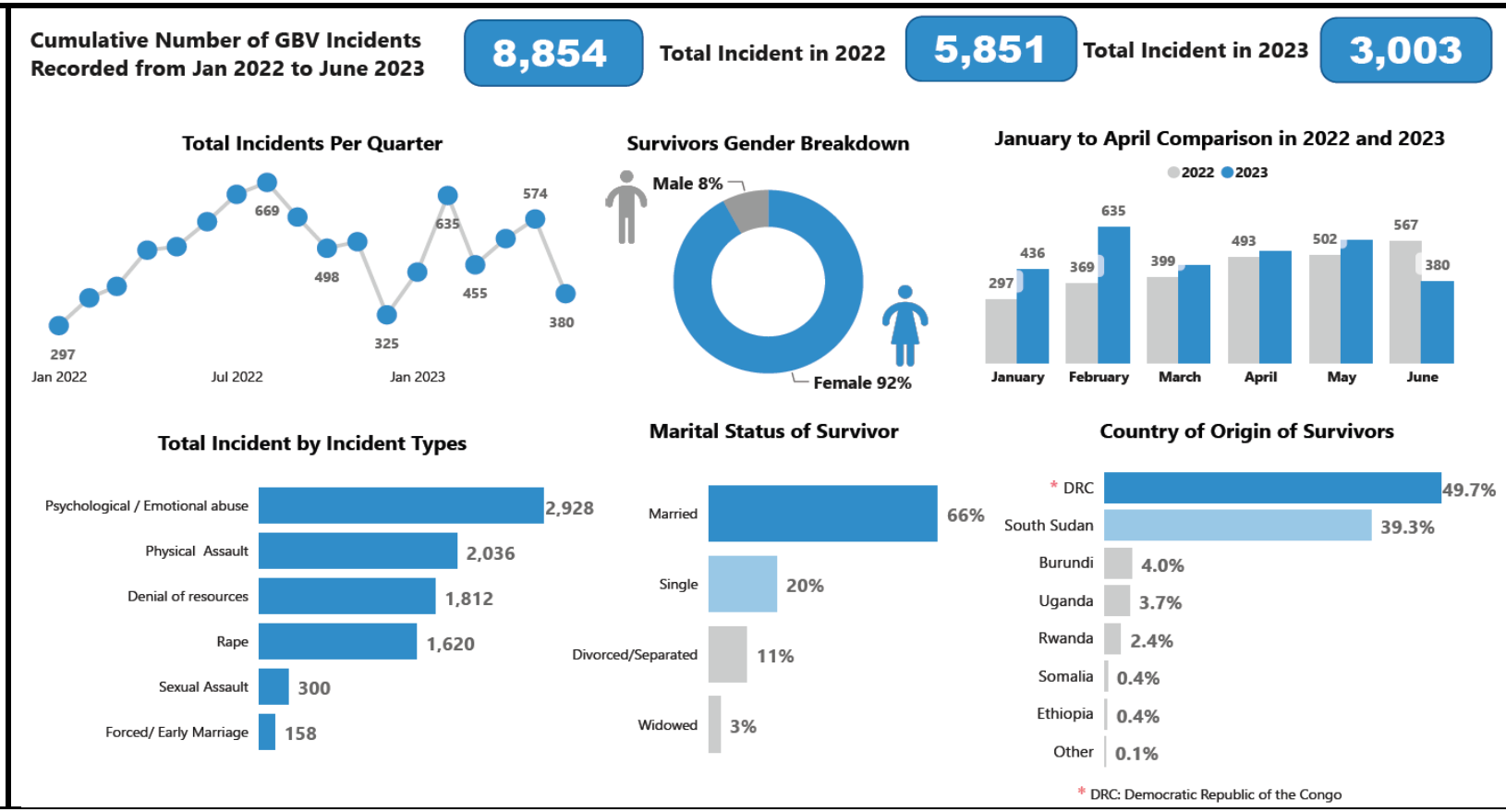
</td></tr>
<tr><td>IPE Verification Data 2021-2022</td><td>

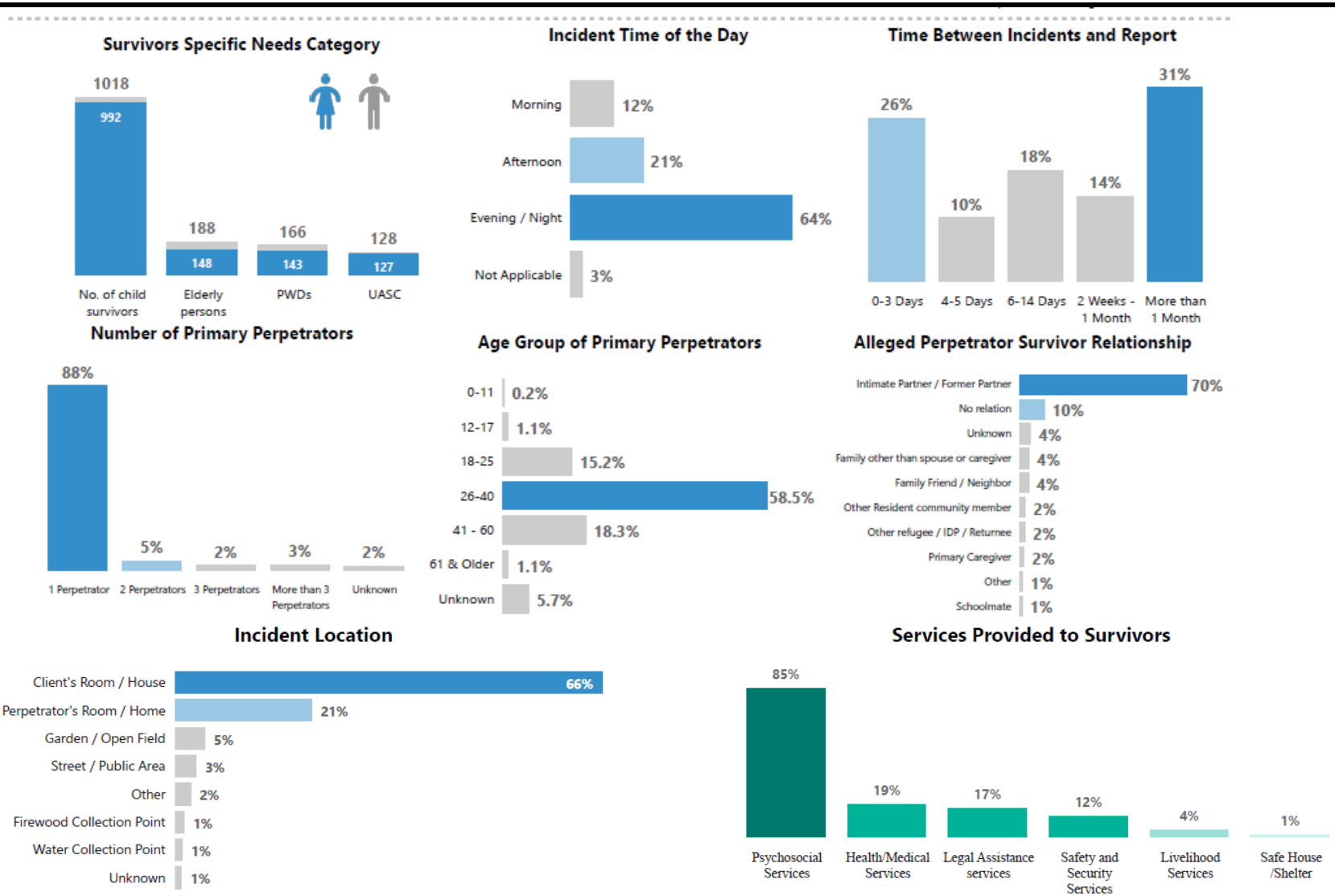
- Of all respondents, 3.35% of households reported engaging in transactional and survival sex, with the highest rates being located in Oruchinga at 12.69% followed by Nakivale with 8.14%. Settlements with the lowest rates of those engaging in transactional and survival sex include Lobule, Palorinya and Imvepi.

</td></tr>
<tr><td>GBVIMS Data 2022-2023</td><td>

- Most reported GBV incidents affected women. The most reported issue is psychological/ emotional abuse, followed by physical assault as second most reported issue.

</td></tr>
</table>


Cumulative Number of GBV Incidents Recorded from Jan 2022 to June 2023
8,854
Total Incident in 2022
5,851
Total Incident in 2023
3,003
Total Incidents Per Quarter
297
669
498
325
635
455
574
380
Jan 2022
Jul 2022
Jan 2023
Survivors Gender Breakdown
Male 8%
Female 92%
January to April Comparison in 2022 and 2023
2022
2023
297
436
369
635
399
493
502
567
380
January
February
March
April
May
June
Total Incident by Incident Types
Psychological / Emotional abuse
2,928
Physical Assault
2,036
Denial of resources
1,812
Rape
1,620
Sexual Assault
300
Forced/ Early Marriage
158
Marital Status of Survivor
Married
66%
Single
20%
Divorced/Separated
11%
Widowed
3%
Country of Origin of Survivors
* DRC
49.7%
South Sudan
39.3%
Burundi
4.0%
Uganda
3.7%
Rwanda
2.4%
Somalia
0.4%
Ethiopia
0.4%
Other
0.1%
* DRC: Democratic Republic of the Congo



GBV Incidents in Jan 2022 to June 2023 broken down by gender and diversity ***Source:*** *Analysis of GBVIMS data 2022 &2023.*

	The main GBV contributing factors are, reduction in cash for food and land for farming is exposing women and girls to risk of exploitation and abuse, harmful cultural norms within the refugee communities and patriarchal behaviors that give men power over women, increased child neglect and abandonment by parents who go to the host community in search of casual work or elsewhere, increase in alcoholism and drug abuse, GBV risks among young children and a spike in cases of teenage pregnancies as an after effect of COVID preventative measures which result into family conflicts, economic hardship in refugee settlements and in the urban caseload. As a result, the national GBVSWG working closely with CPSWG, drafted a workplan with mitigating measures to try and respond to teenage pregnancies, in terms of prevention and response.

Persons with specific needs (PSN)

General overview:

- Unaccompanied and separated children, women, children and older persons at risk, persons with disabilities and serious medical conditions, and persons carrying trauma are among the groups identified for having specific needs.
- Support to the most vulnerable among PSNs with fuel wood to meet cooking requirements for a couple of months could improve nutrition and general well-being of refugees in a home.
- Income-generating activities (IGA) and livelihood opportunities have been identified by the affected communities as means to empower PSNs, taking into account the potential negative impacts of the funding shrinking and the cuts of the general food assistance.

Statistics

As of 31st May 2023, 305,300 individuals are recorded into the ProGres database as having specific needs. This number represents 199,700 females and 105,600 males. The top 5 of the specific needs are: woman at risk (122,305 individuals); disability (112,562 individuals -62,354 females/50,208 males); unaccompanied and separated children (71,544 individuals -34,199 girls/37,345 boys); children at risk (65,987 individuals -34,729 girls/31,258 boys); single parent (48,490 females).

Key challenges identified for PSNs are barriers in accessing services, particularly mobility challenges, and distributions of assistance, challenges in accessing information, barriers in accessing livelihoods (particularly for older refugees and refugees with disabilities), increased risks of violence and GBV (particularly for women and girls with disabilities) and need for psycho-social support[6]. Identified challenges for children with disabilities include accessing education and neglect and bullying[7].

[6] From participatory and community consultations, taken from RRP 2020-2021

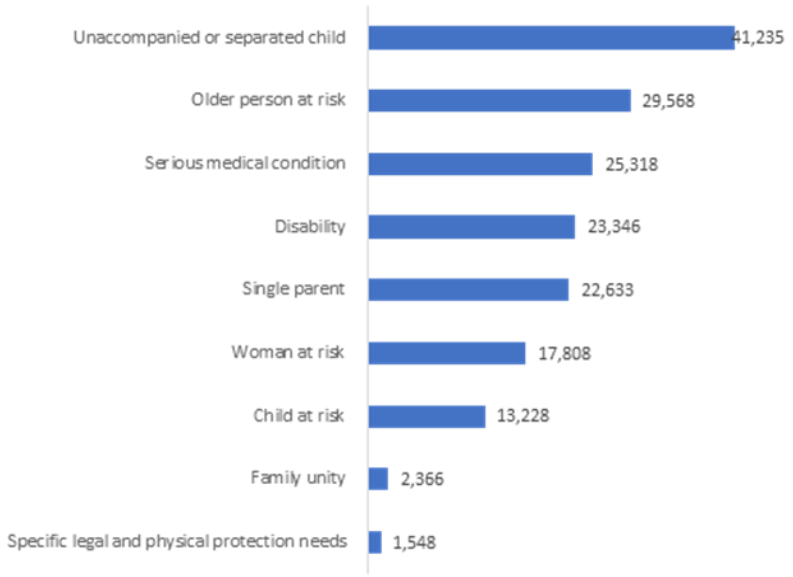
[7] From participatory and community consultations, taken from RRP 2020-2021

IPE 2021-2	IPE verification data shows that 7.61% of households (n=86664) include a person with a level-3 disability according to the Washington Group Short-Set, while 92.39% of households (n=1046062) do not.

Most identified cases (To be updated with data of May 2023):

- UASC are in Rhino, Bidibidi, Adjumani and Palorinya.
- Single parents in Adjumani, Bidibidi, Kyaka II, Kyangwali, Nakivale Rhino and Rwamwanja with more than 1,000 in each location.
- Persons with disabilities over 3,000 in Adjumani, Bidibidi, Paloriyna
- Older persons at risk Adjumani, Bidibidi, Paloriyna over 4,000

See annex for further breakdown by location



UNHCR Protection Dashboard 2nd Quarter 2023	• As can be seen below, **OUTCOME: Persons with specific needs have timely access to appropriate services and participate in community activities and decision-making on an equal basis with others** *Indicator* — *Actual* — *Target (2023)* — *Actual against annual target* **Persons with specific needs provided with support** - Congolese refugees: 8,801 / 40,000 - South Sudanese refugees: 8,742 / 80,000 - Other refugees: 0 / 3,000 - Host community: 137 / 300 **Interventions to address barriers** - Congolese refugees: 91 / 50 (>100%) - South Sudanese refugees: 565 / 75 (>100%) - Other refugees: 0 / 25 (0%) - Host community: 65 / 10 (>100%) • As can be seen below, **OUTCOME: Refugee and host communities populations have improved well being and functioning including very vulnerable people** *Indicator* — *Actual* — *Target (2023)* — *Actual against annual target* **Individuals receiving psychosocial support** - Congolese refugees: 74,740 / 96,522 (77%) - South Sudanese refugees: 67,775 / 180,831 (37%) - Other refugees: 489 / 35,664 (1%) - Host community: 17,565 / 79,689 (22%)

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

General overview:

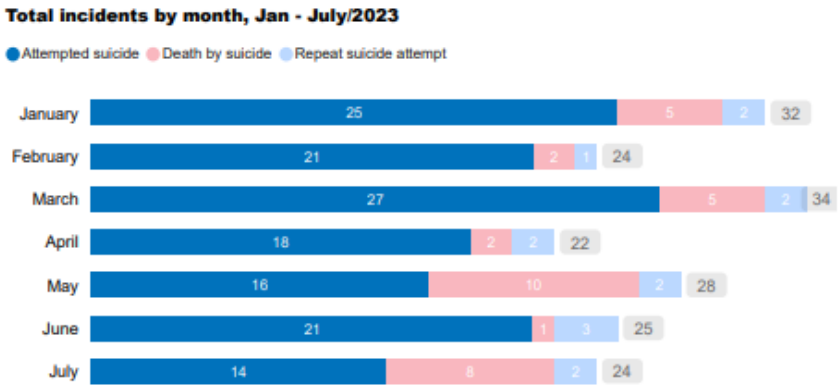
- According to FRRM data, 126 MHPSS referrals were logged between Jan-July 2023. This constitutes a decrease from 153 such referrals within the same timeframe in 2022.
- The leading triggers to suicide cases include family disagreements, lack of basic needs, previous mental illness, abandonment by spouse and substance abuse.
- According to PA data, the majority of those needing mental health or psychosocial support experienced issues in accessing the services needed.
- PA data suggests males experience higher levels of difficulties in accessing health and psychosocial services, primarily due to fear of stigma.

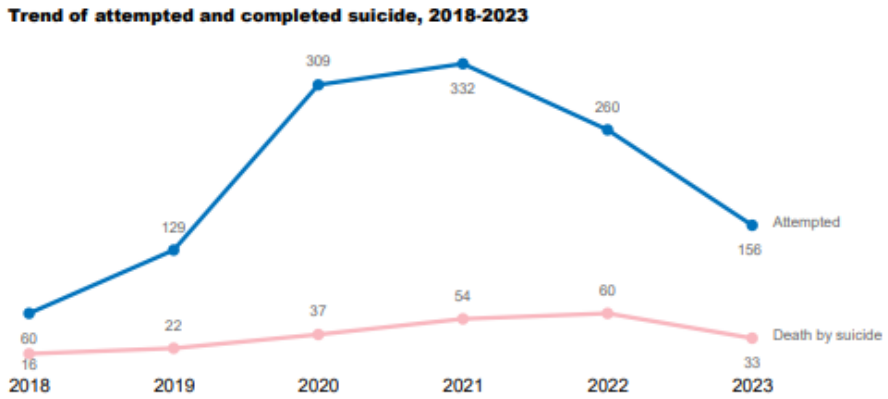
UNCHR July 2023

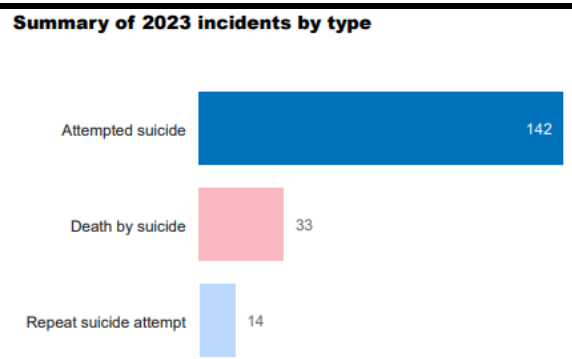
The suicidal ideations remain a major challenge of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) across the Uganda refugee response. With the funding constraints faced by the humanitarian actors which affect the services delivery for all sectors, the living conditions of refugees and other individuals are likely to worsen. Therefore, challenges related to the mental condition will also increase across the settlements and urban settings. It is anticipated that the partners providing MHPSS services will be more solicited for their interventions and the sector should be considered as a priority within the response.

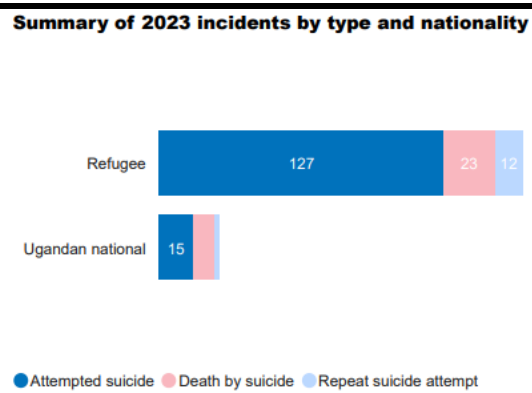
The leading triggers to suicide cases include **family disagreements, lack of basic needs, previous mental illness, abandonment by spouse and substance abuse.**

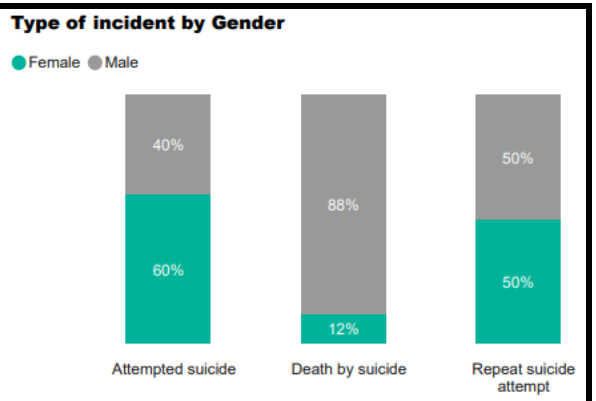
UNHCR – Analysis of Suicide Incidents – July 2023

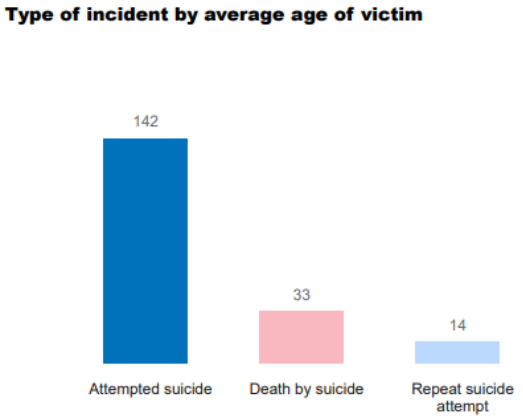


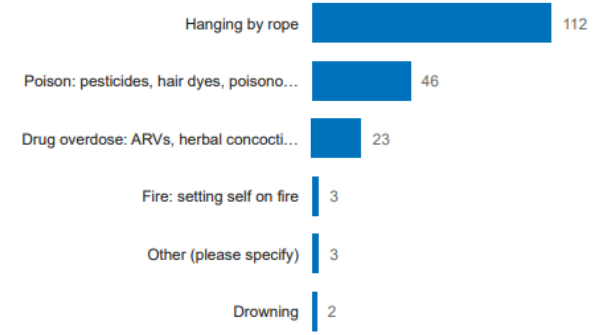


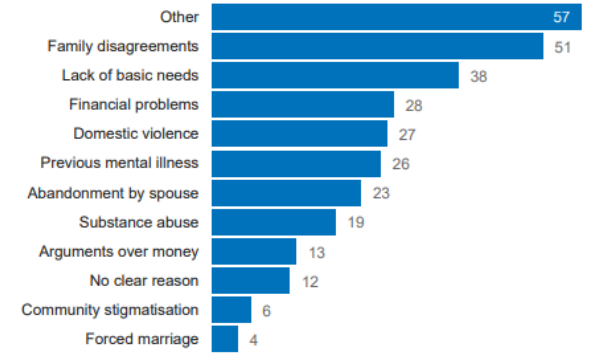












PA 2022

- 22.5% (253) of respondents reported that they or members of their household had needed mental health and / or psychosocial support in the six months prior to data collection. Of these, 60.7% (154) reported that there were difficulties in accessing the services as shown in figure 20 per difficulty faced. These responses may suggest that mental health and psychosocial support are scarce in comparison to the demand.

Figure 20 - % of respondents who reported they or members of their household faced difficulties in accessing mental health and psychosocial services in the 6 months prior to data collection per difficulty faced

N = 154; respondents could select up to three options.

- A similar number of male and female respondents reported needing mental health and psychosocial services in the 6 months prior to data collection, 67.9% of male respondents reported difficulties in access, compared to 53.6% of females. The main challenges mentioned by males was the fear of stigma in comparison to females, suggesting that male respondents may have more difficulties in accessing mental health services.

HFPS, round 3 report, 2021

Figure 26: Respondents with major depression, (% of respondents)

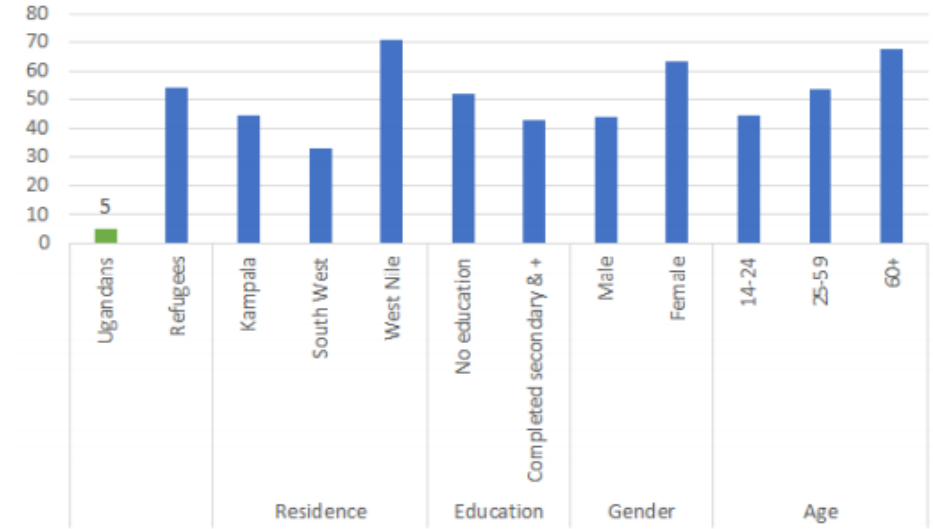
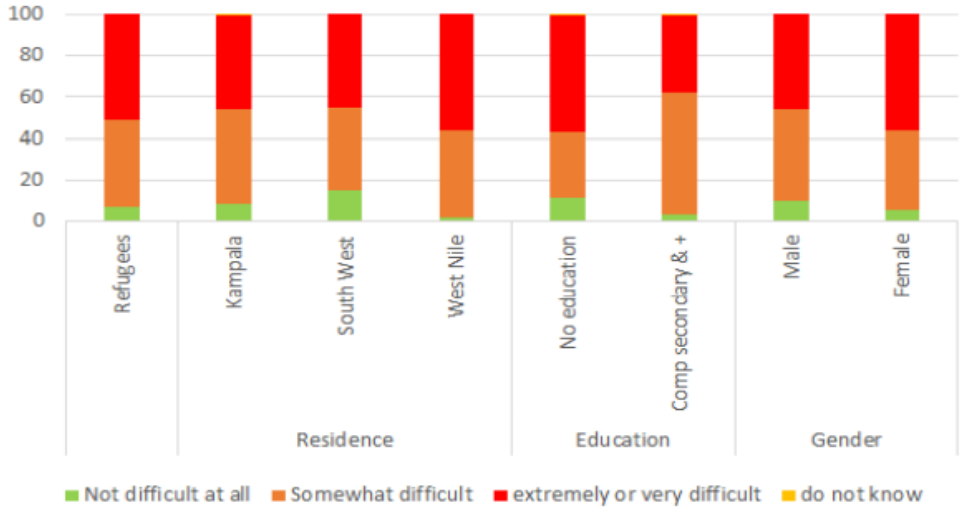


Figure 4: Percentage of respondents with major depression ***Source:*** *HFPS, round 3 report, 2021*

- Incidence of depression was reported extremely high at 71% among refugee respondents in the West Nile[8].

More than half of refugee respondents reported that depression symptoms have made components of their lives extremely or very hard[9]. Refugee women and those without formal education were found more likely to report that components of their lives have become very or extremely hard due to depression symptoms[10].

Figure 27: Impact of depression on work, housework or getting along with other people, (% of refugee respondents who experience at least one depression symptom in two weeks)



Source: URHFPS 3 round, authors' calculation.

Figure 5: Negative impact of depression to work, do housework and engage in social interactions ***Source:*** *HFPS, round 3 report, 2021.*

[8] HFPS, round 3 report, 2021
[9] HFPS, round 3 report, 2021
[10] HFPS, round 3 report, 2021

Social Cohesion

General findings:

- Between refugees and host communities, tensions exist due to competition over limited natural resources such as land, firewood, water and grazing of cattle and destruction of crops by stray animals, as well as real and perceived perceptions that refugees are being given more services than Ugandans.
- Within refugee communities, inter/intra-ethnic tensions remain a concern, with sources of tensions including increasing cost of living, reduction in information sharing, cultural misunderstandings, competition over resources and not speaking the same language.

PA 2022

Relations between refugees and host communities

- Of all PA respondents, 75.3% ranked the relationship with the host community as being good or very good, with 11.7% of respondents in the West Nile reporting the relationship with the host community to be poor or very poor, which is slightly higher than in the Southwest (10.2%) and Kampala (7.6%).
- Of those reporting the relationship with the host community as poor and very poor, competition over resources is the most cited reason to explain the poor relationship, as shown in figure 15. Regionally, more respondents in the West Nile reported that the reason for the poor relationship is cultural misunderstanding.
- Qualitative data suggests that the main challenge regarding the relationship between refugees and host communities is the use of land, with participants reporting that the host community takes the land that is leased to them back when crops are ready for harvest.

Figure 15 - % of respondents who ranked the relationship with the host community as poor, per reason for the poor relationship

N = 122; respondents could select up to three options.

Relations among refugee communities

- The relationship within the refugee community was ranked by 11.2% of respondents as being poor or very poor. The most common reasons for the poor relationship are visible in figure 17, which include cultural misunderstandings, competition over resources and not speaking the same language.

Figure 17 - % of respondents who ranked the relationships within the refugee community as poor per reason for the poor relationship

N = 126; respondents could select up to three options.

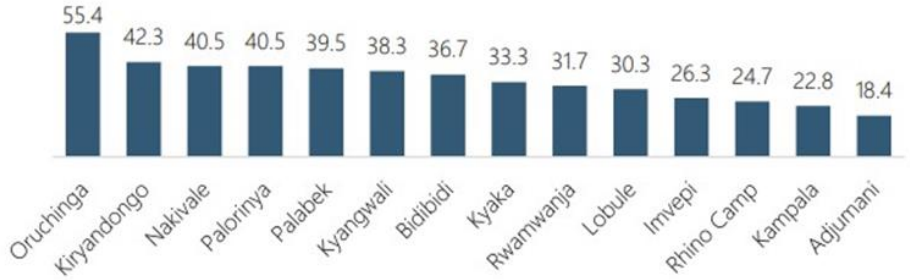
Safety at home and in communities

General findings:

- According to FRRM data, 3986 legal/physical/community-based protection referrals were logged between Jan-July 2023. This constitutes a decrease from 4451 such referrals within the same timeframe in 2022.
- Theft, home break-ins, physical violence and verbal violence are the most common security challenges faced by PA respondents.
- Refugees felt less safe walking alone at night both inside their area and outside of their area compared to during the daylight hours.
- Those engaging in higher risk, illegal or exploitative jobs, as well as transactional and survival sex, are more prevalent in Southwest Uganda compared to other regions of the country.

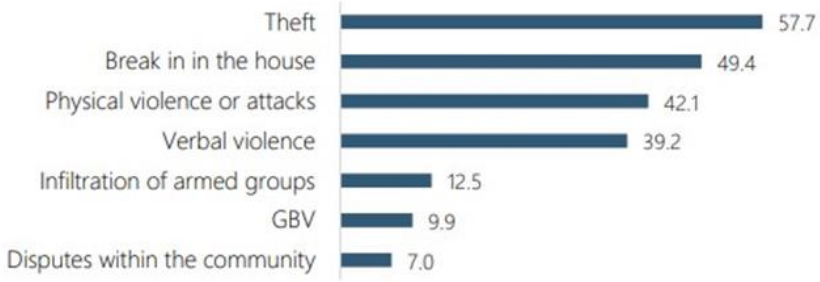
PA 2022

Figure 11 - % of respondents who reported they or members of their household faced security challenges in the 6 months prior to data collection per location



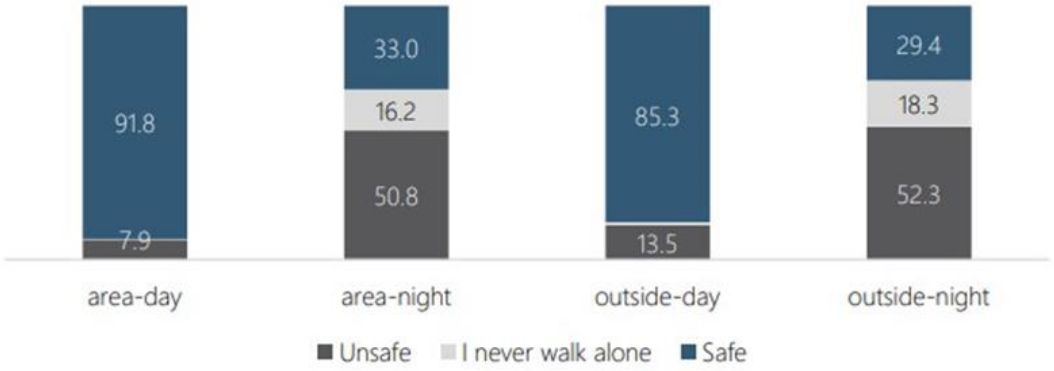
- Overall, 34.3% of respondents reported facing security challenges, of which the most commonly reported incidents included theft, home break-ins, physical violence, or verbal violence.

Figure 12 - % of respondents who reported that they or members of their household faced security issues in the 6 months prior to data collection per issue reported



N = 386; respondents could select up to three options.

- Most respondents reported feeling safe or very safe walking during the day, while only 33% reported feeling safe walking alone in their area after dark, as shown in figure 10. These perceptions were reported to vary in each settlement, but did not significantly vary across gender, age groups, or the presence of disability within the household.

	Figure 10 - % of respondents reporting on their safety perception when walking alone in their area and outside of their area during the day and after dark 
IPE 2021-2022	• Of all respondents, 6.75% of households reported accepting high risk, illegal, exploitative temporary jobs, with the highest percentage being in Oruchinga at 26.45%, followed by Nakivale (13.27%) and Palorinya (11.23%). Settlements with the lowest rates included Kiryandongo, Adjumani and Bidibidi. • Of all respondents, 3.35% of households reported engaging in transactional and survival sex, with the highest rates being located in Oruchinga at 12.69% followed by Nakivale with 8.14%. Settlements with the lowest rates of those engaging in transactional and survival sex include Lobule, Palorinya and Imvepi. • Both of the above indicators (% of those accepting high risk, illegal, exploitative temporary jobs as well as % of those engaging in transactional and survival sex) are seen at higher rates in Oruchinga and Nakivale, both located in Southwest Uganda.

Access to Information and feedback mechanism

General overview:

- Phone lines, complaint boxes are the most popular ways of providing complaints and feedback among PA respondents, alongside providing feedback face-to-face at home with an aid worker or at the protection desk.

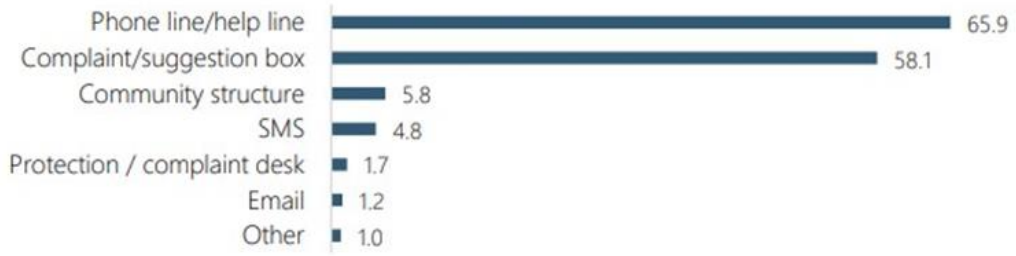
• Despite almost half of respondents having used the CFM in the past 6 months, over half of them experienced dissatisfaction with the response received. Reasons for this included nothing changing as a result of the complaint, not receiving a response, and the response not corresponding to the complaint or feedback provided. • According to FRRM Data, the 2023 cuts and reprioritization in GFA may be related to the increase in year-to-year referrals, particularly in Kyaka II, Mwamwanja, Bidibidi, and Nakivale.	
PA 2022	• Over half of respondents reported being aware of and knowing how to use the CFMs in their community, of which the majority knew about the phone line and the complaints/suggestions box as a way of providing feedback. Figure 39 - % of respondents aware and knowing how to use CFMs, per CFM  N=590; respondents could select multiple options • Among respondents who were aware of and knew how to use CFMs in their community, 45.9% have used a CFM in the past 6 months, and 52.8% of these respondents were not satisfied by the response they received. The most common reasons for this included nothing changing as a result of the complaint, not receiving a response, and the response not corresponding to the complaint or feedback provided. • Regarding the preferred methods of providing feedback about aid and aid workers' behavior, results varied per region. While face-to-face at home with an aid worker was reported as the preferred way of giving feedback for respondents in West Nile and Southwest (58.9%), respondents in Kampala would prefer to go face-to-face at the protection desk (60.8%). In the West Nile, 59.8% of respondents would like to provide feedback face-to-face with a community leader.

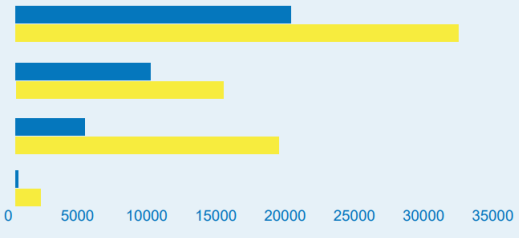
Figure 40 - % of respondents per preferred way of providing feedback about aid and aid workers behavior, per region

UNHCR Protection Dashboard 2nd Quarter 2023

- As seen below,

OUTCOME: Accountability to all persons of concern is strengthened through meaningful engagement and participation of communities

Indicator	*Actual*	*Target (2023)*	*Actual against annual target*
Complaints addressed through effective feedback mechanisms			
- Congolese refugees	19,901	32,000	
- South Sudanese refugees	9,742	15000	
- Other refugees	5,021	19,000	
- Host community	202	1,800	



FRRM Dashboard

- The Inter-Agency Feedback, Referral and Resolution Mechanism (FRRM) data shows that January-July 2023 saw 31k referrals. However, only 21k referrals were logged within that same timeframe in 2022, indicating a large relative **increase of referrals in 2023.**
- This relative increase in year-to-year referrals could be linked to the 2023 cuts/reprioritization in **General Food Assistance (GFA)**. Of the 21k referrals between Jan-July 2022, only 13% (2594) were logged as pertaining to food assistance. Within the same timeframe of Jan-July 2023, however, **this proportion is substantially higher (48%)** with almost 15k referrals. This cross-year difference can be observed when comparing the below figures (dark green signifies GRA-related referrals).
- The number of logged referrals related to GFA between Jan-July 2023 **varies significantly across settlements**. Of all 15k referrals pertaining to GFA logged between Jan-July. 2023, the settlements with the highest proportions of logged referrals include: Kyaka II (3622, 25% of all GFA referrals), Bidibidi (3464, 25% of all GFA referrals), Rwamwanja (3575, 24% of all GFA referrals), and Nakivale (2238, 15% of all GFA referrals)
- It should also be noted that the actual proportion of GFA-related referrals of that location's total referrals between Jan-July 2023 varies substantially per location, as seen below:

*Figure: numbers of **GFA-related** referrals (dark green) against that location's non-GFA referrals (light green) between **Jan-July. 2023**, by location*

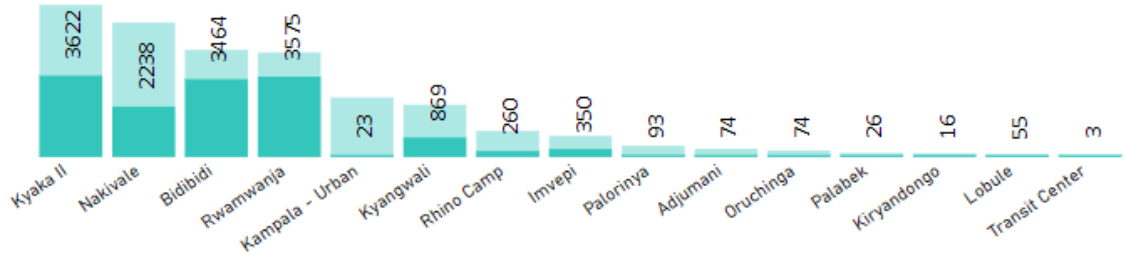
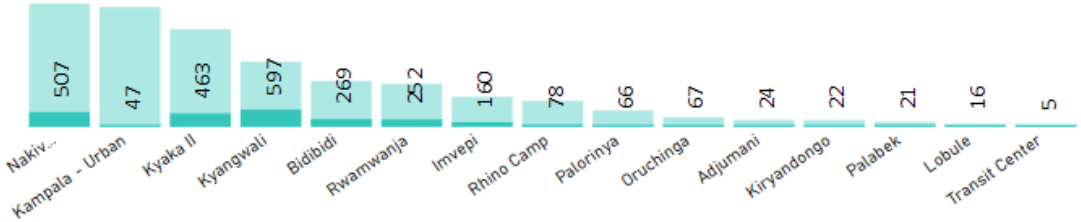


*Figure: numbers of **GFA-related** referrals (dark green) against that location's non-GFA referrals (light green) between **Jan-July. 2022**, by location*



Assumptions and Risks

Risks from Situation Update (national level):

- CwC- Harmonized risk communication strategies may lead to effective information sharing on risks.
- CwC -Without strengthening coordination and information-sharing between various CwC mechanisms, including digitalization, community feedback will not be analysed and utilized in a comprehensive manner to inform programming and service delivery.
- Peace co-existence – If partners and stakeholders do not proactively or are unable to identify early warning signs and triggers of conflicts and address them at an early stage, then this can escalate into violent conflicts and a response to conflict will be needed.
- GBV - Women and girls will be more at risk without the establishment of more women centers, counselling centers as well as improved outreach and livelihood activities, to refugees to ensure identification and safe referral of GBV survivors and those at risk.
- GBV - Addressing root causes of GBV including cultural issues and social norms will lead to better outcome for women and children.
- Mental health - Growing numbers of protection cases, including GBV and neglect, will require additional support to face distress and trauma for victims and their families or caretakers.
- GBV - Delays in accessing justice and limited human and financial resources are huge challenges to the provision of quality and effective services.
- GBV- Police in the settlements is often understaffed and underequipped, has limited means to arrest perpetrators and investigate cases, which compromises the outcome of reported cases.
- GBV - The low case worker/manager to survivor ratio poses challenges in following up cases. There is a gap in available protection houses, and training of medical staff on clinical management of rape.
- GBV- SEA persist, given refugee's reliance on humanitarian aid and limited access to socio-economic opportunities.
- GBV - A growing number of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and inter-sex (LGBTQI) individuals from refugee producing countries, especially DRC, need focused attention. This category of asylum seekers is not only not granted refugee status in Uganda, but also faces low tolerance and acceptance among the members of the public, and hence insecurity.
- CP- The caseworkers to children at risk ratio remain very high, with 128 children managed on average by one case worker. This shows a significant increase compared to the 1:84 case worker to children at risk ratio at the end of 2022. This negatively affects the overall quality and response capacity of the child protection sector, especially in light of the significant increase of child at risks following the verification exercise[11].
- Mental Health: Besides the needs for improved basic services access and security, strengthening differentiated services adapted to the different psychosocial and mental health needs across the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) intervention pyramid for mental health and

[11] Document - Uganda Refugee Response: Child Protection dashboard - Quarter 1 2023 (unhcr.org)

psychosocial support will prevent risks of negative coping mechanisms such as the rising numbers of suicidal cases, but also substance abuse, violence and development of mental illnesses.

Main Conclusions

Community outreach and empowerment need to be strengthened further to enable communities to effectively play an active role in their own protection. Community leadership and self-management structures require continued support and guidance to empower them to serve their communities. There is need to enhance support for community-led initiatives including creation of more, such as community and youth centres, where diverse groups can conduct community activities.

In order to adequately respond to the needs of refugee women, men, boys and girls, it is essential to collect information on gender roles, norms and dynamics within various refugee communities and to consistently disaggregate data by age, sex and diversity considerations in order to identify who is and who is not benefitting from services. While progress has been made on data collection, consistent analysis of this data and its use to improve programming needs strengthening.

COVID-19 and the Ebola pandemic exacerbated the pre-existing vulnerabilities of refugee and host communities with the movement restrictions, closure of schools, loss of livelihoods which led to frustration and anxiety. Due to the lack of comparable data before and after the pandemic, it is difficult to conclude if these restrictions contributed to the deterioration of safety, increase in GBV incidents, and increased mental health issues, but one-fourth of population do not feel safe in their community and an alarming rate of depression (54%) is reported post-COVID.

As both refugee and host communities hold very youthful population, the restrictions of COVID-19 on their educational and livelihoods opportunities made them idle and feel hopeless which may have led to mental health issues or increase in conflicts within refugee communities or between refugee and host communities. Lack of adequate funding to address the gaps in mental health and psychosocial support is a serious concern. Based on the trends, there is an increase in the number of refugees suicide incidents. The decrease in year-to-year MPHSS referrals could be related to the reluctance in refugees, particularly males, seeking out services due to fear of stigma.

Though we do not have enough information, it is not difficult to imagine how COVID-19 increased the vulnerabilities of PSNs especially for persons with disabilities and older refugees with the movement restriction which hindered them to access health care, separated them from care givers, and socially isolated.

Protection risks among children remain a concern, including separation from parents and families, neglect or abandonment of children, violence against children at home and within the community, exposure to harmful traditional practices, including child marriage, exposure to different types of GBV, teenage pregnancy, child labour as well as high levels of emotional distress. Children aged 12-17 years of age are more likely to engage in child labour compared to those aged 5-11 years, and a small proportion of those engaging in child labour perform hazardous tasks, including garbage collection, heavy lifting, and exposure to extreme conditions and noise.

The main causes of the conflict between host and refugee communities and within refugee community are over limited natural **resources** (water, firewood, land, etc.), reduction in information sharing, cultural misunderstandings, compounded by the increasing cost of living. Moreover, data suggests a real and perceived perception that refugees are being given more services than Ugandans, thus contributing to rising tensions between host and refugee communities.

Safety at home and in communities appears to theft, home break-ins, physical violence and verbal violence are the most common security challenges faced by refugees. It is noted that increased access to lighting especially in communal areas can enhance the protection of refugees, particularly with the safety concerns expressed by refugees regarding walking alone at night.

Refugee statistics by settlement as of 30th April 2023

Settlement	Asylum Seeker	Refugee	Total
Adjumani	7	209,574	**209,581**
Bidibidi		190,704	**190,704**
Imvepi	7	65,248	**65,255**
Kampala	39,795	99,413	**139,208**
Kiryandongo	40	64,318	**64,358**
Kyaka II	1,634	118,494	**120,128**
Kyangwali	218	130,243	**130,461**
Lobule		5,991	**5,991**
Nakivale	1,947	171,108	**173,055**
Oruchinga	2	7,941	**7,943**
Palabek	1	76,578	**76,579**
Palorinya	17	122,186	**122,203**
Rhino	3	139,542	**139,545**
Rwamwanja	404	90,485	**90,889**
Total	**44,075**	**1,491,825**	**1,535,900**

Numbers of Persons with Specific Needs by category and location as of 31 March 2023 **Source:** ProGres v4

PSN_Sub Category	Adjumani	Bidibidi	Imvepi	Kampala	Kiryandongo	Kyaka Ii	Kyangwali	Lobule	Nakivale	Oruchinga	Palabek	Palorinya	Rhino	Rwamwanja	Grand Total
Child at risk	6,162	9,708	780	211	1,990	11,844	9,245	325	13,440	1,232	1,188	4,335	1,602	3,955	66,017
Disability	15,982	17,788	4,222	1,004	3,493	18,142	9,039	982	15,478	1,736	2,022	7,778	9,207	5,674	112,547
Family unity	5	76	5	81	11	122	571	1	114	2	11	28	17	26	1,070
Older person at risk	650	1,356	452	115	364	1,059	1,803	36	1,288	81	317	1,411	620	713	10,265
Serious medical condition	3,421	3,518	1,452	402	2,256	2,402	3,151	138	3,266	160	1,040	1,098	2,176	1,634	26,114
Single parent	3,375	7,059	1,656	103	1,731	7,592	11,328	176	6,132	381	1,488	4,846	3,556	3,953	53,376
Specific legal and physical protection needs	41	1,342	21	39	46	339	22		358	9	18	15	35	58	2,343
Unaccompanied or separated child	14,863	19,329	3,036	433	5,597	3,378	3,178	390	3,036	213	2,293	3,428	10,891	1,304	71,369
Woman at risk	12,299	18,663	3,776	162	3,913	15,380	20,724	514	14,065	858	3,064	10,759	8,438	9,688	122,303
Grand Total	**56,798**	**78,839**	**15,400**	**2,550**	**19,401**	**60,258**	**59,061**	**2,562**	**57,177**	**4,672**	**11,441**	**33,698**	**36,542**	**27,005**	**465,404**