

Key Figures

752,868

Registered refugee children

61%

Percentage of children amongst refugee population as of October 2018

36,000

Number of unaccompanied or separated children (UASC)

43.3%

Percentage of children under 12 years

18%

Percentage of Adolescents



Children re-united with their mother in Palabek on 14th March 2019

HIGHLIGHTS

- **82** (51M/31F) Best Interest Determination (BID) reports were conducted in Nakivale, Kyaka II, Bidibidi and Arua settlements, of which 66 (37M/29F) were paneled for durable solutions.
- **529** (282M/247F) Best Interest Assessments (BIAs) were initiated in Nakivale, Kiryandongo, Kyaka II, Adjumani, Lamwo, Rwamwanja, Bidibidi and Arua Refugee Settlements.
- A total of **456** (201M/255F) UASC and children at risk in Bidibidi and Arua settlements were supported during the general food distribution at the litigation desks.
- With support from UNHCR, World Vision distributed assorted NFIs such as backpacks, clothes, mattresses among others to **691** (407M/284F) children in Bidibidi settlement, including UASC. The major purpose is to improve the living conditions of children in the settlement.
- A total of **1,980** (943F/1,037M) community members in Bidibidi, Kiryandongo and Arua Settlements attended series of community awareness sessions on child rights, birth registration, Child Friendly Spaces (CFS), referral pathway, cultural matters, availability of

services to children, the role of parents in the protection of children and the duty bearers in ensuring children are living in a protective environment.

- **51** (13M/38F) foster parents in Bidibidi Settlement attended their monthly reflection meeting to discuss the general welfare of fostered children under their care. During the meeting, foster parents reported that fostered children lacked basic needs such as clothes, soap and uniforms which required urgent support from child protection actors. Meanwhile, parents were also reminded of practicing positive parenting as well as encouraging them to send their children to the available CFS centres for integrated activities.
- A total of **3,718** (1,832F/1,886M) children (both refugees and nationals) from Arua settlements were registered to obtain birth certificates; of which **329** (157F, 172M) children were issued with birth certificates while others are also in the process of receiving too. The challenges faced is the low refugee numbers registered due to lack of required documentation to obtain a birth certificate as well as the spontaneous relocation of refugees from one village to the other which has affected the distribution of certificates to the beneficiaries.

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.
- 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 in March:

Children receiving case management services:	8,796
Best Interests Assessments conducted	529
Children in foster care:	01
Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) reunified with parents or customary caregivers:	03
Total # of functional Child Friendly Spaces (CFSs):	146
Average monthly attendance of children in child-friendly activities:	35,558
Total number of functional Child Protection Coordination Working Group:	13
Number of Adolescents participating in targeted programmes:	10,042

CHALLENGES

- Limited number of caseworkers compared to the number of children at risk requiring support.
- Equipment and tools to facilitate case management, are not sufficient and do not correspond with the caseload and needs of caseworkers.
- Limited availability of alternative care arrangements, and protection concerns for children in informal 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.
- High mobility of cases as well as spontaneous and self-relocation increases the difficulty in tracking and following up on cases.
- Lack of access to water and insufficient sanitation facilities in some Child Friendly Spaces (CFS).
- 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 centres in all

settlements, but birth certificate issuance is not granted. 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 child protection volunteers and motivation to Child Protection Committees (CPCs) members, is raised by many actors as one of the challenges that affect the efficiency of the community mobilization

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

Contacts: Mohaned Kaddam, Protection Officer (Child Protection), kaddamm@unhcr.org