

**Key Figures**

**61,399**

**Total number of persons of concern to UNHCR registered in urban areas**

**41,938**

**Are registered refugees**

**19,461**

**Are registered asylum seekers**

**CHILD PROTECTION**

Number of Unaccompanied and Separated children	8 (3F/5M)
Number of other children with specific needs	23 (13F/10M)
Number of Children in Foster Care	0

**SGBV INCIDENTS (MARCH 2019)**

Incident	Number
Rape	10
Physical Assault	1
Denial of resources	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>



UNHCR Deputy Representative, Ms Mahoua Parums dancing with the urban refugee women at the Antonio Guterres Refugee Community Centre in Kabusu on International Women's Day

**Key highlights**

- Under the theme, “Empowering Women through Innovative Approaches to Social Protection: A Pre-requisite for Inclusive and Sustainable Development”, urban refugee women, under the umbrella of Ladies in Faith Together (LIFT), celebrated International Women’s Day at the Antonio Guterres Refugee Community Centre in Kabusu. The women, who had a strong representation from a number of nationalities resident in Kampala, gave testimonies to the fact that working together remains the cornerstone for their resilience and development.
- Fifteen urban refugees from Rwanda, Burundi, S. Sudan, Eritrea and the DRC participated in the High Level Ministers meeting on Refugees in the Great Lakes Region where they had an exhibition of handcrafts and other items made by refugees. The refugees had an opportunity to interact with Ministers, the Regional Refugee Coordinators for the DRC, Burundi and S. Sudan and H. E. the President of The Republic of Uganda, who graciously connected with the refugees by greeting them in their

local languages. The Office of the UN Special Envoy initiated a production of a documentary on resilience and solutions through interviews with some of the refugees.

- Two urban refugees participated in the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Conference on Livelihoods and Resilience for refugees, returnees and host communities event where they exhibited diverse handmade crafts. They also displayed different talents and skills, a review meeting was also initiated by UNHCR to enable the different refugee groups identify potential for markets.
- The monthly Protection Town Hall meeting was held at the community centre in Nsambya, Kampala. The meeting sought to meaningfully engage the urban Congolese refugee community and to provide an opportunity for urban refugees to express their concerns. Key issues raised included resettlement requests, health assistance, livelihood support and other specific issues related to the asylum process including being referred to the border points for registration. Although the refugees appreciated the efforts by UNHCR to conduct outreaches with the different groups of persons of concern, they requested for more to be done through various communication channels in the urban.

## Sexual and Gender Based Violence

- In March, 12 new SGBV incidents (12F /0M) were reported and documented. Based on individual need and consent, they were supported with multi-sectoral response such as psychosocial (12), health (12), legal (1), and safety/security (2) assistance.
- On 8<sup>th</sup> March, 25 (18 men/7 boys) participated in a one day SGBV prevention and response training organized by InterAid Uganda (IAU) at Nsambya Community Centre. Although men and boys can be perpetrators or bystanders they can also be part of the solution to SGBV. UNHCR also facilitated on causes, contributing factors and consequences of SGBV as well as guiding principles and referral mechanisms.



*Training of refugee men and boys on SGBV prevention and response at Nsambya community centre*

- 07 IAU staff benefitted from a training by UNHCR on the SGBV module of proGres V4 to build their competence and confidence on using proGres V4. IAU staff learnt and practiced, in the training environment, how to create a new SGBV case, SGBV assessment and SGBV intervention. Although data protection safe guards are in place, the registration team ensured that the participants understood it. The proGres user profiles for the partner staff have been initiated.



*Training InterAid Uganda (IAU) on the ProGres V4 SGBV module at UNHCR, Kampala.*

## Child Protection

- During the reporting period, 33 (14M/19F) Best Interest Assessments (BIAs) were initiated; 07 were separated children, 10 were unaccompanied children, 05 school dropouts, 03 medical cases, 04 children living with disabilities, 03 Defilement cases. Internal Referrals and follow ups are ongoing to ensure that their protection concerns are holistically addressed.
- 47 (16M/31F) parents and caregivers of children living with disabilities attended a therapy meeting organized by IAU staff at the community centre in Kabuus. This was an opportunity for participants to share experiences on how they can handle children living with disabilities and to seek for specific support.
- In total, 50 (30F/20M) peers from Nsambya Kevina and Nansana participated in two peer to peer support sessions, the adolescents shared experiences on personal and menstrual hygiene, knowledge on HIV/AIDS, choosing of positive peers and decision making. The participants were given IEC materials with information on reproductive health information. Additionally, 30 girls received sanitary towels.



*Adolescents listening to a psycho- social counsellor.*

## Inter-agency Feedback, Referral and Resolution Mechanism (FRRM):

There were 294 (146M/148F) logged cases during the reporting period. In addition, 9 category 5 cases were also received during the reporting period. 280 cases were logged by refugees, 10 by asylum seekers and others (4). 167 cases were handled at helpline level while 115 cases were referred and feedback availed to 12. The top four cases received by sector were durable solutions (139), general queries (29), health and nutrition (25) and general protection/community based protection (24).

### Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs)

- 88(53F/35M) out of 750 older persons accessed services including counselling, food and shelter cash grants after a comprehensive social assessment and vulnerability approval by the financial review and assistance committee, legal services and medical support from IAU health unit.
- 93(57F/36M) out of 300 Refugees living with disabilities accessed services at IAU. The services include medical support, assistive devices, counselling toward self-reliance and food and shelter cash grants for extremely vulnerable cases or sudden disabilities to enhance their capacity to cope in the urban.
- 01 quarterly coordination meeting with persons living with disability (PWDs) was held on 9/03/2019 at the refugee community centre in Nsambya where 20 (13M/7F) PWDs were trained in Village Loan and Saving Association to enable them develop a saving culture and be self-reliant while in the urban.
- A PSN Working group meeting was held on 22nd March. Terms of Reference (TORs) for the group were reviewed and it was agreed that older persons and persons living with Disability would be the categories of focus in the sub working group.

### Statelessness

- UNHCR held a meeting with government focal persons on statelessness. Key aspects discussed and agreed upon include establishment of a statelessness taskforce, appointment of a deputy statelessness focal person, a training of a journalist and parliamentarians on statelessness, commissioning of a study to identify different stateless communities and to cover the legal gap analysis in preventing statelessness.

### Needs and Gaps

- There are inadequate and appropriate individual case management infrastructure at IAU for appropriate interviewing and counselling spaces including child friendly spaces.
- The two urban community centres serving refugees and nationals are ill equipped and in need of additional and well facilitated trainers, functional and well maintained sewing machines and computers with internet connection.
- Although SGBV continued to receive high attention, this is often not reflected in the resource allocation especially in the urban setting where the SGBV incidents remain underreported; survivors of SGBV experience wide range of physical,

psychological and social consequences that add trauma to their lives.

- Livelihoods opportunities for the urban persons of concern remains a challenge although some refugees have expressed interest in marketable skills training for immediate employment, the available resources at the community centres are inadequate to meet the growing demand for the different categories of refugees and host communities.

### **PARTNERS**

**The Office of the Prime Minister's (OPM) - Directorate of Refugees, UNHCR's Government counterpart.**

InterAid Uganda (IAU). A local Non-Governmental Organization, International Office for Migration (IOM), Refugee Law Project (RLP), Centre for Domestic Violence Prevention (CEDOVIP), African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (ACTV), ActionAid Uganda, Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES), Windle International Uganda (WIU), Finn Church Aid (FCA), Jesuit Relief Services (JRS) and Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Centre for Women in Governance (CEWIGO), Care and Assistance for Forced Migrants (CAFOMI), Reproductive Health Uganda (RHU).

### **CONTACTS**

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