



UNHCR Monthly Protection Update

Child Protection (CP)

May 2019

Key Figures

774,803

Registered refugee children

44%

Percentage of pop. are children under 12 years

17%

Percentage of the pop. are adolescents

36,000

Unaccompanied or separated children (UASC)

28

UASC reunified with parents or customary caregivers

180

Children in foster care

6,298

Children receiving case management

5,937

Adolescents participating in targeted programmes

22,147

Average monthly attendance of children in child-friendly activities

146

Total # of functional child friendly spaces (CFS)

13

Functional Child Protection Coordination Working Group

HIGHLIGHTS

- **485 (206M/279F)** Best Interest Assessments (BIAs) were initiated in Nyakabande & Matanda transit centers, Nakivale, Oruchinga, Kyangwali, Adjumani, Lamwo, Bidibidi and Arua Settlements.
- **42 (23M/19F)** Best Interest Determination (BID) reports were presented and discussed in BID Panels in Bidibidi, Adjumani, Nakivale and Kyaka II settlements.
- **142 (60M/82F)** unaccompanied, separated and children at risk in Bidibidi settlement were reported to the litigation desks at the Food Distribution Points (FDPs). Overall, the number of children appearing at the FDPs is gradually decreasing.
- **1,131 (549M/582F)** children (including UASC) in Bidibidi and Arua Settlements were supported with assorted core relief items such as mattresses, soaps, shoes, blankets, sanitary pads and food items. Some children were referred for specific services such as medical and education among others to improve their general welfare and personal hygiene.
- Child protection case workers visited **172 (127M/45F)** UASC and children at risk in Nyakabande transit centre and Adjumani settlements. The objective of the visits were to ascertain the children's coping mechanisms and their general welfare in order to provide necessary support.
- In Kyangwali, **472 (308M/164F)** children received Psychosocial Support Services in the different Child Friendly Spaces (CFS).
- **593 (324M/269F)** community members in Kisoro, Bidibidi and Adjumani Settlements attended a series of community dialogues focusing on encouraging the adolescents to live positively during the holidays, school feeding programs, addressing the increased teenage pregnancies and child marriages, child protection referral pathway among others. The adolescents agreed to support each other when one is at risk of being abused, whereas the community pledged to vigilantly report and support their children to stay in school.
- **562 (297M/265F)** Child Protection Committee (CPC) members from Bidibidi settlement participated in monthly reflection meetings. The different meetings focussed on addressing the larger number of children at FDP during school time, re-orient CPCs on their roles in case management, reporting and follow up of child related cases.
- In Nakivale and Oruchinga settlements, 08 new child protection committees (CPC) were established. The new CPCs will be equipped with basic CP and case management knowledge, and expect to increase reach and service delivery at the community level.
- **347 (61M/286F)** foster parents in Bidibidi settlement attended positive parenting sessions focusing on key family care practices. The sessions have gradually improved the general parenting practices of children, thus enhancing their welfare.
- In Bidibidi, **437 (240M/197F)** animators were trained and oriented on child safeguarding policy; to ensure that they observe key child protection principles while working with children and enhance safety of all children. Additionally, UNHCR and World Vision jointly delivered training to **143 (66M/77F)** child protection staff. The training topics covered the new Best Interest Determination Procedures, psychosocial support and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA).
- A 3-day training was conducted on juvenile justice for 73 Refugee Welfare Council members in Adjumani. The participants discussed different types of offences by children, diversion and reporting child protection cases among others.

- In Adjumani, a Children’s Forum was held with 76 (40M/36F) children participants at Multi-Purpose Youth Centre under the theme “*Violence against Children*”. The forum provided a platform for children to discuss issues affecting them in the settlement. Child labour, forced and child marriages, lack of funds for school fees and scholastic materials were expressed as the most pressing challenges faced by the children.
- 18 parents/caregivers of children with disabilities attended a 3-day training in Adjumani. The training was organized by LWF and focused on parenting, care and protection for children with disabilities. This was intended to improve the quality of care that the said children receive. The parents/caregivers requested for Income Generation Activity (IGA) activities so that they can holistically provide the most required needs of the most vulnerable children.
- In Kiryandongo, a Best Interest Procedures (BIP) SOPs rollout workshop was conducted with 25 partner participants including OPM, Police and the District Probation Office facilitated by UNHCR Protection team.
- **256 (157M/99F)** children participated in awareness meetings at various CFS centres in Bidibidi Settlement. The meetings sought to create awareness through performances of music, dance and drama focusing on the new process of food distribution, rights and responsibilities of children in the community among others.

CHILD PROTECTION CHALLENGES

- Limited number of caseworkers compared to the number of children at risk requiring support.
- Equipment and tools to facilitate case management, such as laptops are not sufficient and doesn’t correspond to the caseload and the needs of the caseworkers.
- Inadequate and irregular presence of authorities and CP partners at food distribution points despite the number of UASCs showing up for food collection.
- Factors such as high mobility of cases and the spontaneous and self-relocation are increasing difficulties in tracking and following up on 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 level have been reported.
- High levels of abandonment of children in the

settlement by their mothers who cross back to South Sudan and/or marry other men has contributed to the minors missing food/cash assistance and dropping out of school.

- Limited or the lack of support for foster parents often leading to neglect of fostered children under their care and many families shying away from foster-ship responsibilities.
- Limited targeted support to out-of-school adolescents and youth.

CHILD PROTECTION INTERVENTIONS

- Strengthening **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 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 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

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