

UNHCR Monthly Protection Update

Child Protection (CP)

August 2019



Key Figures

801,419
Registered refugee
children

61%
Percentage of children
amongst refugee
population

46,592
Number of children at
risk including 36,335
(UASC) registered in
proGres V4

45,046
Number of children at
risk receiving case
management support
including 36,008 UASC

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- 1010 (526M/484F) Best Interest Assessments (BIAs) initiated in Nyakabande & Matanda transit centres, Nakivale, Oruchinga, Kyangwali, Rwamwanja, Kyaka II, Adjumani, Lamwo, Bidibidi and Arua Refugee Settlements.
- 57 (24M/33F) Best Interest Determination (BID) reports initiated, and currently under review to be presented to the BID panel for discussions across the operation.
- During August, 293 (149M/144F) children in Bidibidi and Arua settlements were assisted to receive food from the various Food Distribution Points (FDPs) through the litigation desks.
- Child Protection partners across the operation conducted 4676 (2354M/2322F) home/shelter visits to unaccompanied, separated and children at risk to monitor progress of case management, any arising issues, and provide assistance when required. As part of case management, across the operation, 145 (85M/60F) cases were closed.
- 1039 (521M/518F) children (including unaccompanied and separated children) in Bidibidi, Arua Settlements and Nyakabande Transit Centre were supported with assorted core relief items such as mattresses, soap, plastic shoes, blankets, gumboots, umbrellas, back bags, scholastic materials, sanitary pads and food items. Additionally, some of the supported children were referred for specific services such as medical and education among others to improve their overall welfare and personal hygiene.
- In Bidibidi and Arua Settlements, 24,935 (13,769M/11,166F) children (including nationals) received Psychosocial Support Services (PSS) through various age appropriate activities undertaken in different Child Friendly Spaces (CFS).
- 1,386 (583M/803F) community members (including children and youth) in Bidibidi and Arua settlements attended series of community dialogues and children meetings focusing on articulating children rights and obligations, the importance of CFS, ending teenage pregnancy, roles of children at school and at home, discipline among children and children were encouraged to join peer to peer and peace clubs. Among other suggestions, the children requested for emergency pads to be placed at the CFS centres.
- 1,119 (594M/525F) Child Protection Committee (CPC) members from Bidibidi, Kyaka II and Arua settlements participated in monthly reflection meetings. The different meetings focused on discussing confidentiality in reporting cases, introduction of caseworkers in the villages, supporting children at the FDPs, assessing progress, achievements, lessons and challenges faced while implementing the action points drawn in the previous meetings and training sessions to promote children's rights in the community. The CPC members raised an issue of presence of video halls within the settlements that attract children during school hours as well as late in the night. The CPC members were encouraged to strengthen community sensitizations and timely referral of cases to the specialized agencies.
- 384 (193M/191F) new child protection cases were identified in the settlements. Primarily the cases included; neglect, abandonment, sexual or physical abuse and exploitation, medical concerns, SGBV, UASC among others. All the cases were assessed and referred for appropriate response services including medical, legal and psychosocial support. However, there is still a challenge of concealing SGBV cases by communities due to cultural factors, fear of retaliation actions or preference to settle and resolve cases among themselves.
- A total of 1206 (477M/729F) foster parents in Bidibidi, Kyangwali, Kyaka II, Arua, Rwamwanja, Settlements attended positive parenting sessions focussing on key family care practices, importance of immunization, birth registration and child protection referral pathways. The foster parents were encouraged to always monitor the wellbeing of both their biological and fostered children using the meagre available resources.

- 71 (43M/28F) children from Nakivale, Oruchinga and Kyaka II Settlements were reunified with their family members and regular home visits conducted to monitor their coping mechanisms.
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- 25 (14M/11F) UNHCR and SCI staff in Kyaka II Settlement attended a 2-day training on child safeguarding and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). The objective of the training was to equip participants with knowledge and skills on how to identify potential risks to the safety of the children, preventing harm from befalling children through putting in place preventive measures and safe programming and risk assessments, reporting and referral channels.
- 17 (5M/12F) HIJRA caseworkers and UNHCR Child Protection Staffs from Nakivale and Oruchinga Settlements attended a ProGres V4 (Child Protection Module) roll out orientation. The roll out orientation was facilitated by the UNHCR ProGres V4 (Child Protection Module) focal point from Kampala. The major objective of the training was to build the capacities of the case workers in case management using proGres V4 (child protection module).
- In Kyangwali Settlement, 7 (2M/5F) child protection and psychosocial support staff attended a BIP training that was facilitated by the HIJRA head of Protection. The major aim of the training was to build staff capacities in compilation of quality BID reports with emphasis on principles of child protection, child interviewing and communication with children. The staff were encouraged to do further reading on the UNCRC to have a broader understanding of children's rights.
- 127 (63M/64F) children and adults in Omugo Settlement in Arua; attended a Children's Parliament organised by peace club members. Key pressing issues for discussion included; poor health services, overcrowding in primary schools, absence of response of legal services providers after reporting of cases among others. The stakeholders in attendance committed to improve on their general service delivery.
- In Kyaka II Settlement, 3299 children were registered during the National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA) birth registration exercise for the issuance of birth certificates with an objective of preventing statelessness for children born in the

country of asylum and cannot obtain legal documentation from their parents' countries of origin.

- In Nakivale and Oruchinga Settlements, HIJRA child protection staff attended a NIRA training on Birth Registration and the importance of obtaining legal documentation. The team was briefed on the criteria to acquire birth certificates as part of legal documentation and preventing of statelessness of refugee children born in the country of asylum.
- The child protection and health teams in Rwamwanja and Kyaka II Settlements attended an OVC/ PEFFAR training facilitated by the UNHCR OVC focal point from Kampala. The training objectives were; defining the OVC-SERV disaggregate; Calculating the total number of beneficiaries serves as of the semi-annual period of reporting (SAPR) and the annual reporting period. (APR); Identifying necessary services to be considered active; Explaining the concept of graduation benchmarks; Understanding how the list of eligible OVC services is applied to children and caregivers; Differentiating between essential case management activities and eligible OVC services; Mastering how the timing of services delivered has an impact on the program participation status among others.

CHILD PROTECTION CHALLENGES

- High mobility of cases increases difficulties in tracking and follow up 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
- High levels of abandonment of children in settlements by mothers who cross back to South Sudan and/or remarry has contributed to minors missing food/cash assistance and school dropout.
- Limited targeted support to out-of-school adolescents and youth.

CHILD PROTECTION INTERVENTIONS

- Strengthening of case management services through 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.

- 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.

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

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