



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Key Figures

72,234

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

55,598

Are registered refugees

16,636

Are registered asylum seekers

66%

Women and children

SGBV INCIDENTS (September 2019)

Incident	Number
Rape	21
Sexual assault	2
Psychological/emotional abuse	1
Total	24

UNHCR Monthly Protection Update Urban Protection Response September 2019



Participants of the round table discussion on statelessness held in Entebbe ©UNHCR, Duncan Mato

Key highlights

- UNHCR in conjunction with the Ministry of Internal Affairs organized and facilitated a round table discussion on statelessness from 11th -13th September in Entebbe. The meeting sought to validate the Uganda national action plan (NAP) on statelessness, develop a road map for the ratification of the 1961 convention on statelessness, promote the use and domestication of the UNHCR Global Action Plan to end statelessness, capacity building and raising awareness, advocate for the review and alignment of the citizenship law of Uganda with international and regional standards. As a result, the NAP on statelessness was drafted and a road map for the ratification of the 1961 convention was agreed upon. During the meeting, the Government of Uganda reiterated its commitment to accede to the 1961 convention on the reduction of statelessness.
- On 20th September 2019, UNHCR accompanied a delegation from the ECHO. The objective of the mission was to assess the Information Counselling and Legal Assistance (ICLA) project implemented by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and funded by ECHO. The Mission visited two centres in Kisenyi and Makindye where NRC conducts legal counselling, outreach and protection support for refugees and asylum seekers. Language barrier, limited feedback from service providers, support for education, livelihood and access to documentation among others were reported as major challenges affecting urban refugees. The need for improved information sharing with the community was noted.

The ECHO mission also visited the OPM registration centre in Kampala where they observed registration activities and held focus group discussions with refugees.

Sexual and Gender Based Violence

- 24 new SGBV incidents were reported and documented in the GBVIMS. Among the survivors were 21 females and 3 males who received required multi-sectoral response based on their need and consent. They were supported with multi-sectoral responses such as psychosocial (11), health (14), legal (03), and safety/security (10) assistance. Underreporting of SGBV cases remains a major concern due to a variety of factors including stigma, shame, family reaction and dissolution, perception of SGBV as a private matter, or lack of confidence in reporting channels.
- The Kampala Level SGBV Working Group Meeting was hosted by Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) at Nsambya on 4th September. During the meeting, the inter-agency SGBV Referral Pathways developed by the working group were presented and endorsed.

Child Protection

- In September, Best Interest Assessments (BIAs) were conducted for 54 children at risk (29 Boys/25 Girls) The identified children at risk presented various protection concerns including serious medical conditions, family tracing, UASC and SGBV among others. Various interventions were provided to address the needs identified and routine follow up to continue.
- Home visits were conducted for 09 (05boys,04girls) Unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) as well as children in foster homes to follow up on their wellbeing.

- 03 (02F/1M) separated children under kinship care. The children with tracing needs were referred to Uganda Red Cross for family tracing.
- 56 (25M/31F) adolescents from the Sudanese community attended 02 group consultative meetings to deliberate on available opportunities to protect themselves from harm and jointly creating a conducive environment for academics and talent development.
- Peer to peer sessions were held with 12 (6M/6F) adolescents in Nansana. Key issues raised include lack of scholastic materials, inadequate parental care and neglect. The participants requested for training for their children leadership structure.
- 02 engagement meetings were conducted with Child Protection Extension Workers to improve service delivery in terms of case identification and reporting. During the meeting, the Child Protection Extension Workers presented 62 Child Protection cases including children living with disabilities, medical complications, child neglect, school drop outs, child headed households among others. The identified cases were referred to the respective service providers for further management.

Education

- 370 (220F/150M) PoCs attended information dissemination sessions on enrolment, retention and completion of school.
- 4(3F/1M) Burundian refugee students were facilitated to successfully translate their academic documents from French to English at the College of Languages, Makerere University.
- 02 group counselling sessions were conducted for the most vulnerable families targeting parents/caretakers of children with disabilities supported with school fees. The sessions mainly focused on key parenting roles and 19 (11F/8M) parents/care takers attended the sessions. Following the sessions, 10 (10F/9M) parents were provided with psycho-social support. Additionally, an integrated group counselling was conducted with refugee children at St. Peters Primary School, Nsambya where 105(62F/43M) children were counselled on life skills, education and sexual harassment among others.

Access to Legal Assistance and Remedies

- 594 (275F/ 319M) PoCs received legal assistance on issues concerning threatening violence, registration of associations, mediation, custody applications in court, civil marriage registration, court bail among others.
- Court monitoring and follow up was conducted for 05 cases at Kajansi Magistrates Court, Makindye Chief Magistrates Court, Mwanga II and Buganda Road Chief Magistrates court in Kampala. As a result, 03 PoCs had access to State prosecutor's legal representation and a court bail application was as well presented.
- Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) sessions were conducted for 04 cases including domestic violence, custody and domestic disturbance custody disputes. The Police and Kampala City Council Authority (KCCA) was engaged on these disputes which resulted in the

referral of the custody case to the child and family protection Unit (CFPU) for further management and a nuisance notice served by Rubaga KCCA Sanitation and Health Authorities.

- Regular monitoring/case follow up was conducted at 13 Police Stations to provide legal assistance for PoCs in detention. As a result, 06 cases involving PoCs were identified and provided legal assistance. The police emphasized the need to strengthen coordination and linkages with authorities for effective response.

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

356 (207M/149F) queries were logged during the reporting period. 215 queries were handled at helpline level while 141 were referred to partners and UNHCR focal points for follow-up. Most queries (133) were received from individuals between the ages of 26 - 35. A total of 328 queries were received from refugees, 25 from asylum seekers and 03 from other caller categories (host community). The largest number of queries received were in relation to Durable solutions (124), General queries (67), Community based protection (40), Health and Nutrition (35). Other sectors (Legal and Physical Protection, Registration, Education, Livelihoods, Child Protection, RSD, Psycho-social Support, Shelter Sites and NFI's, SGBV and SEA) cumulatively received and 90 queries.

Community Mobilization and Youth empowerment

- 3,020 (1,575F/1,445M) PoCs accessed the Antonio Guterres community centre in Kabuusu and the new community centre in Nsambya to utilize the internet, receive counselling, attend livelihood group meetings as well as receive training on tailoring, hair dressing and English language. The Kabuusu Community centre also provided temporary day care services to 10 children (06F/4M) children. This is a community initiative by the refugee women.
- 126 (82F/44M) PoCs attended English language training at both refugee community centers to facilitate their communication with the host community and as well enhance their integration.
- The South Sudanese community in Kampala officially launched their community centre on 13th September 2019. The centre is meant to serve as an assembly point for South Sudanese and will also provide skills/vocational training and for refugees and host community members with contribution from members and donations from well-wishers. UNHCR will continue to support activities at the centre including linkages to other service providers and donor missions.
- On 18th September, the Congolese Refugee Community in Uganda (CRCU) held its weekly meeting and invited UNHCR to provide feedback to their concerns. The CRCU is a community-based organization formed as an advocacy platform for social change and community development of Congolese refugees in Uganda. During discussions with CRCU, key concerns

raised included issues relating to resettlement, health, education and support for urban refugees.

Health

- **Primary health care:** 642 outpatient consultations were made. 160 referrals were received from the refugee settlements to access tertiary care services at the national referral hospitals in Kampala. Kyaka II and Rwamwanja settlements had the highest referral rates.
- **Mental health services:** 68 psychiatric reviews were conducted. Psychosocial and psychological support was also extended to 80 PoCs. 06 new admissions were referred to the Butabika National referral hospital for tertiary care (02 from Nakivale and 04 Kampala) and only 01 discharged.
- **Reproductive Health:** 78 pregnant mothers (all 18+ years) were followed up at ANC, 02 attended the 1st ANC within the 1st trimester, 62 attended 1st ANC beyond the 1st trimester and 14 attended 04 or more visits. All 78 mothers were tested for HIV and non-turned out positive. 10 high risk pregnancy were identified, no abortions. All mothers were tested for Syphilis and were negative. Of the 78 mothers, 52 received 2nd dose of TT, 14 received (IPT3+) for malaria and 69 received mosquito nets. 24 mothers who had delivered were followed-up, 02 of whom were children below 18 yrs.
- **HIV Care:** Due to limited HIV test kits, HIV testing was only conducted except for mothers for ANC. 21 persons on Anti-Retroviral Therapy received Intensive adherence counselling.
- **Nutrition Services:** 41 children below 5 years were assessed for malnutrition and 01 identified with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and linked to KCCA for care.

Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs)

1092 (576F/516M) PSNs sought and accessed services ranging from health, protection and community-based services as categorized below;

- 15 were supported with food and shelter cash grants to enable them cope in the urban and as well mitigate protection risks.
- 56 (34F/22M) older persons accessed specific services including counselling, legal services and medical support.
- 25 (12F/13M) refugees living with disabilities were facilitated to access the medical support in form of assistive devices. 07 were supported with auxiliary crutches, elbow Crutches, ankle foot brace and corsets.
- 26 (3M/23F) single parents accessed various services including counselling, health care, legal support, food and shelter cash grants based on an assessment of their vulnerability.

- 205 (75M/130F) PSNs with serious medical condition were supported with prescribed drugs and recommend investigations. Additionally, 50 women of reproductive age received 100 packets of sanitary towels.
- 439 PSNs received psych-social counselling to enable them cope with their individual situation. 04 Home visits were also conducted to provide home based psychosocial counselling.
- In collaboration with Raising Gabdho Foundation, 209 PSN were trained in making cook in bags. Accordingly, 75 cook-in bags and energy saving stoves were distributed to 75 PSNs. Also, 03 shops equipped with cook-in bags, energy saving stoves and briquettes were opened in Makindye and Kibuye. PSNs will be issued with shopping vouchers to pick items from these shops whenever needed for a period of 03 months effective 1st October to 31 December 2019.
- Group psycho-social counselling was conducted for 24 parents/guardians of children living with disabilities (CWDs) to enable them cope with challenges faced in caring for children with special needs.

Needs and Gaps

- Inadequate individual case management infrastructure at IAU for appropriate interviewing and counselling.
- Lack of a sign language interpreter for persons with hearing impairments especially children.
- Limited resources to support effective and comprehensive response to FRRM cases and those identified from the communities.
- Absence of a streamlined mechanism to support refugees in the Court of Appeal.
- The two-urban community centres serving refugees and nationals are not well equipped and require additional and well facilitated trainers.
- Limited livelihoods opportunities for the urban persons of concern. 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 different categories of refugees and host communities.
- Need for a working group on rule of law/access to justice to strengthen coordination and legal response.

PARTNERS

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

InterAid Uganda (IAU), 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).

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