

Key Figures

339
Number of Police
deployed

30
Number of female Police
deployed

28
Number of Police Posts
in Refugee Settlements

67
Number of Packages
Provided by UNHCR
(Fuel, accommodation,
WASH facilities, protection
house, vehicle, motorbikes and
transport)



A mobile court session held in Kiryandongo refugee settlement.

Physical Safety and Security

- Physical assault, theft and domestic violence were the most reported cases in Kyangwali and Arua settlements. In Arua, 168 (86 refugees, 82 nationals) crime incidents were reported in November. In comparison to October, this represents a 27% increase in incidents reported. 101 cases (12F/70M) were registered from Kyangwali police station and posts within the settlement.
- As of November, the Arua operation had registered 413 ex-combatants (2F/411M). 3 new cases of ex-combatants were recorded.
- UNHCR and OPM jointly organized and facilitated a training in Gulu from 18 - 20th November on Principles of International Protection and Maintaining the Civilian Character of Asylum. The forum brought together 48 district heads of Immigration, Military Intelligence, Uganda Police, Public Administration, National Intelligence and Uganda Wildlife Authorities stationed in Adjumani, Lamwo, Arua, Koboko, Madi-Okollo and surrounding districts. Government participants developed a draft action plan on Maintaining the Civilian Character of Asylum and refugee settlements which is under final review.

Access to legal assistance and legal remedies

- On 7th and 8th November, one mobile court session was organized by UNHCR in coordination with the

Judiciary, Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), OPM and HADS in Lobule settlement. The session was presided over by the Koboko Grade one Magistrate. 10 cases were heard and determined.

- DRC conducted 04 legal aid clinics jointly with Uganda Reach the Aged Association (URAA) in Agojo, Nyumanzi, Ayilo I and II settlements reaching 68 (27M/41F) persons with messages on access to legal courts within the settlements, legal referral pathways and legal protection concerns in the community. UNHCR through LWF and DRC also conducted case follow ups and offered legal support for 22 criminal cases. 10 persons of concern (8M/2F) with ongoing cases received legal assistance.
- 101 cases were recorded at Kyangwali Police Station. 18 of these cases were forwarded for prosecution to Kyangwali Court while cases regarding loss of documentation were referred to OPM for replacement of the same. UNHCR through its protection partner HIJRA, offered legal counselling & advice to 40 (20M/20F) refugees. 03 court personnel; the Grade one Magistrate, the State Attorney and Community Services Officer were facilitated with transport to attend Court at Kyangwali and preside over 86 cases (30 refugees and 56 nationals). CARE International Uganda also organized and facilitated a special mobile court session to speed up disposition of the above cases and 57 (21 refugees, 36 involving nationals) cases were heard.

- In Yumbe, 59 (38F/21M) refugees received legal assistance and counseling on issues related to threatening violence, attempted suicide, child to child sex, child abuse, domestic violence, physical assault, theft among others. 10 cases were successfully resolved while 32 were supported through referral for further intervention and management. On a separate note, 42 (24F/18M) cases were registered for legal support by the Legal team and community-based
- DRC in partnership with police, DPP, Judiciary, community-based paralegals handled 10 cases in Kiryandongo bringing the total number of cases handled since January to 268. DRC also facilitated the Grade 1 Magistrate to conduct a mobile court session attended by 116 (57M/59F) persons in which two cases were heard at Maga-Maga youth centre. The session was also supported by the DPP, Police and Prisons.

Detention Monitoring

- As of 30th November, 11 joint detention monitoring visits were conducted to Arua Main Prison including the women wing, Remand Home and Koboko Prison. At the time of reporting, there were 93 (10F/83M) refugee inmates in Arua main prison (male and female wing) and 24 (2F/22M) in Koboko prison.
- UNHCR, OPM, partners and justice actors in Adjumani and Kyangwali conducted Joint Inter-Agency Detention Monitoring visits to Prisons. From 13-15th November, visits were conducted in Lamwo, Kitgum, Gulu main prisons and Lugore Prisons Farm reaching out to 13 refugee inmates in detention. Additionally, in Kyangwali, detention monitoring was conducted over a four-day period covering thirteen detention facilities in the Albertine region including 1 Juvenile detention facility, reaching 3,345(3261M/105F) inmates. 55(53M/2F) persons of concern were documented during the exercise. The facilities visited included Kagadi Government Prison, Kibaale Main, Kyakasengura Farm Prison, Ntwetwe Government Prison, Bukomero Government Prison, Hoima Main, Masindi Main, Maiha Farm Prison, Isimba Government Prison, Bugambe Government Prison, Buseruka Government Prison, Kyangwali Government Prison and Ihungu Juvenile Detention facility.

Community Policing and Advocacy

- In Yumbe, 10 legal information sessions were conducted on rights and obligations of refugees and key criminal offences in Uganda. They were attended by 856(267F/587M) refugees and members of the host community. In Adjumani, 09 legal education outreaches were held reaching 512 (270M/251F) persons in Baratuku, Maaji, Mungula and Mireiyi settlements. The sessions sought to raise community awareness on legal remedies, referral pathways and response to incidences of domestic violence.

Coordination

- UNHCR participated in two District Coordination Committee (DCC) meetings convened in Adjumani to advocate for improved access to justice by refugees, and to mobilize JLOS actors to embrace and support the mobile court sessions.
- In Kiryandongo, the monthly settlement coordination meeting was held on Thursday 07 November 2019 with representation of staff from different agencies. Key issues discussed included deteriorating road network affecting service provision in the settlement, increasing rate of child neglect and rise in theft in the settlement.
- UNHCR, OPM and RWC III convened a Protection Sector Working Group meeting in Adjumani on 14 November 2019 with participation from various stakeholders/partners and representatives from the refugee community. The discussions focused on key implementation achievements and challenges faced in 2019 as well as the strategic direction for protection delivery in 2020 building on the Global Compact and CRRF.

Capacity Development

- In Kiryandongo, UNHCR successfully organized and facilitated 2 refresher training sessions on the Code of Conduct for partners, OPM and Police on 12th and 13th November 2019. The sessions were attended by 100 participants. An Individual Case Management (ICM) training for 28 UNHCR and partner staff was also conducted in Kiryandongo. DRC also conducted Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) training for 86(52M/34F) local clan and religious leaders at Magamaga Youth Centre in Kiryandongo.
- LWF jointly with other Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS) actors in Adjumani, conducted an induction session for Court Interpreters and Court Assessors at the Adjumani Magistrate Court to acclimatize them with court procedures, processes and decorum in preparation for planned High Court Session. 4 participants (3M/1F) benefited.

Gaps Identified

There are several obstacles stifling provision of access to justice. They include:

- Limited facilities for holding juvenile offenders at Police posts.
- Inadequate facilitation of Court personnel which affects discharge of court duties and participation in Mobile Courts.
- Limited knowledge of Ugandan laws coupled with limited knowledge of Court procedures.
- Inadequate facilitation of Police (fuel, vehicles and accommodation) continues to affect presence of Police in settlements. International standards require that one Police Officer is deployed per 500 individuals, current numbers of Police Officers deployed in all settlement totals to 339 which is below the required standard.

- Language barrier at the Police stations and courts remains a challenge for witnesses, this is coupled with difficulty in accessing interpreters for court which often results in miscarriage of justice.
- Long period of remand for refugee inmates due to failure to access sureties on grounds that refugees lack fixed places of abode.
- Some prisons have inadequate facilities (accommodation, permanent latrines, fences) leading to congestion and poor welfare of detainees.
- Delay using we're going to have to combine that with concrete model much longer but they are able to get this this week will work resume yeah makes sense person waiting for the improvement why has the bigger collection to see it in the framework because I might also limit the management perhaps well given that we have election is already happened I don't understand it good question play under my
- Poor and prolonged investigation of cases due to limited capacity, lack of investigative skills, poor turn up of witnesses leading to frequent adjournments and case dismissal for want of prosecution.
- Delays in expediting cases (especially capital offences) due to intermittent court sessions, lack of legal representation and limited number of Judicial Officers to handle cases leading to increased case backlog.

Partners Implementing Access to Justice Response

Partners: IRC, HIJRA; DRC, ULS, ARC, RLP; InterAid Uganda, CAFOMI

Operational Partners: UNDP, LASPNET

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