

UNHCR UGANDA WEEKLY UPDATE

Date: 12 November 2020

COVID-19 SITUATION IN UGANDA

New COVID-19 cases	289
Current admitted cases	574
Cumulative COVID-19 cases	14,993
Cumulative recoveries	8,323
New deaths	6
Cumulative deaths (nationwide)	139
COVID-19 positive cases (refugees)	198
Recoveries (refugees)	164
Cumulative COVID-19 refugee deaths	4
Cumulative COVID-19 cases (Humanitarian workers)	151

Source: Ministry of Health, as of 10 November 2020

SECURITY

The security situation remained relatively calm throughout the country.

The Electoral Commission of Uganda rolled out campaign programmes for Presidential candidates. The slated dates are 9 November 2020 to 12 January 2021, ahead of the Presidential and Parliamentary polling date scheduled for 14 January 2021. This follows conclusion of the presidential nominations conducted on 2 and 3 November 2020, in Kampala.

NEW DEVELOPMENT AND IMPACT ON THE REFUGEE OPERATION IN UGANDA

NSTR

KAMPALA

The South Sudan National Dialogue Conference

The dialogue which began on 3 November is ongoing and scheduled to end on 14 November 2020. Three refugee representatives from Uganda are participating virtually in the conference, Mr. Simon Marot led presentations on transformation of governance, security reforms and national building. The presentations highlighted key recommendations for inclusion in the overall report to be shared with the South Sudan government by the secretariat.

The Multi-purpose Cash Assistance for Refugees in Kampala

The multi-purpose cash assistance begun on 30 October 2020 and is progressing well through the use of Post Bank. As of 11 November 2020, 14,577 (42 percent) households comprising of 28,660 individuals (50 percent) had received cash through the Post Bank modality. Cumulatively, UNHCR has disbursed cash to 22,104 (52 percent) households, constituting 51,114 (63 percent) refugees in Kampala, through both Airtel mobile money and Post Bank. UNHCR continues to sensitize eligible refugees to register for the assistance, which is anticipated to end by 30 November 2020.

Refugee Status Determination

The Refugee Eligibility Committee (REC), held its session in Kyaka II refugee settlement, from 4 to 6 November 2020. The adjudicated asylum applications were 348, involving 1,058 individuals. Most of the applicants were Congolese, residing at Sweswe Reception Centre, with the recognition rate being

approximately 84 percent. UNHCR participated in the session as an observer, providing logistical and technical support.

October Statistics on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)

During the month of October 2020, 503 new SGBV incidents were recorded, the highest being physical assault, mainly perpetrated by intimate partners. This was followed by rape most prevalent in the urban, and among the Congolese refugees. Cumulatively, 3,398 cases have been recorded in 2020. All the reported cases received at least one of the multi-sectoral interventions, based on their issues and circumstances of the incident. The statistics indicate a sharp increase in cases, which had declined in the third quarter, with an average of 345 incidents per month. In comparison, the pre-COVID19 period in the first quarter recorded a monthly reported average of 243 incidents, which increased to a monthly average of 377 in the second quarter, before declining marginally again in the third quarter. Analysis is ongoing to better understand the spike in incidents, and also monitor the November trends.

UNHCR received the CERF-UFE Approval letter

UNHCR received a letter confirming the allocation of USD 2,000,000, for the project titled, “*Urgent Response to the Impact of COVID-19 on the Protection of Refugees, Particularly Women and Children in Uganda*”. The CERF-UFE funding will be utilized in five locations in Arua, Bidibidi, Palorinya, Adjumani and Kyangwali. Field offices have been notified to factor this funding into their detailed planning for 2021, and support will be offered by Kampala to ensure a timely implementation of the activities.

Complementary Pathways in the Framework of Child Protection

UNHCR conducted a training on Complementary Pathways in the framework of child protection, organized by resettlement unit. For the Ugandan context, tracing and family reunification are critical activities to facilitate complementary pathways for resettlement. This is as a result of the high number of over 41,000 unaccompanied or separated children registered with the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM).

The Third FRRM Inter-Agency Coordination Group Meeting

The meeting discussed the draft terms of reference for localized Feedback Referral and Resolution Mechanism (FRRM) coordination groups, sensitization strategy for West Nile and updates on FRRM trends for the previous months.

WEST NILE

Adjumani

Health, Nutrition and COVID-19 Response

NSTR

Effects of Flooding

Adjumani district received torrential rains that flooded most parts of the district. Most affected are roads and bridges that have been washed away, making many roads impassable. Also affected is the ferry crossing at Laropi and Obongi, which links West Nile to other parts of the country. Refugees have equally been affected during the past two days and are now temporary displaced in eight settlements namely: Pagirinya, Mungula, Ayilo, Olua, Boroli, Elema, Baratuku and Maaji. Houses and latrines have been washed away or collapsed, as well as gardens and animals lost. A rapid needs assessment is being conducted starting 12 November 2020, by OPM, UNHCR and partners. In addition, the host communities living close to the River Nile bank were displaced late last week. A rapid needs assessment was conducted on 4 – 6 November 2020, by Adjumani District Local Government (ADLG), UNHCR as well as WFP, and support was also provided. A total of 20,220 individuals (4,731 households) in five sub-countries were affected (Pachara, Ukusijoni, Pakelle, D'zaipi, and Arinyapi). The floods destroyed homes, agricultural

farms, domestic animals, roads, health centers and schools among others. The families were temporarily relocated to a safer place within the sub-county. OPM in Kampala sent relief items and UNHCR provided fuel to two ADLG trucks (upon their request), to allow the distribution of the items to various locations. A response plan is being developed and will be shared shortly. One comprehensive report will be prepared about the affected population from both refugees and host communities.

Continuous Registration

In Adjumani, OPM, UNHCR and Lutheran World Federation (LWF) commenced the continuous registration activities on 4 November 2020 in Ayilo 1 refugee settlement, where a total of 159 individuals were assisted. The exercise begun on 2 November 2020 and is still on-going.

Food and Cash Assistance to Persons of Concern

The exercise commenced in both Palabek and Adjumani settlements on 5 and 10 November 2020, respectively. Whereas in Adjumani, it is a combined with the 11th and 12th cycle distribution, in Lamwo, it is only the 11th cycle distribution. In Adjumani, this process has been delayed due to impassable roads caused by heavy torrential rains, making it difficult to deliver food assistance to Baratuku and Nyumanzi Food Distribution points. The food distribution to other affected settlements will take place at a later stage.

Nuer refugees relocated from Palorinya reception center to Palabek settlement:

On 9 November 2020, a total of 197 Persons of Concern (PoCs) in 30 households of Nuer ethnicity, were relocated from Palorinya to Palabek settlements. These refugees are pending registration, since OPM does not have BIMS user rights to transfer refugee data from Palorinya to Palabek. The follow up on this has already been initiated.

E-registration of Primary Seven Candidates

Registration of all candidates for the Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE) in all the schools in the settlement has started. This is being conducted by Windle International Uganda (WIU), and other education partners, in preparation for the final examination next year. Additionally, in Lamwo, a total of 22 candidates among those PoCs relocated from Palorinya will also be supported in the registration process for the final exams.

Arua/Kiryandongo

Health, Nutrition and COVID-19 Response

No refugee tested positive to COVID-19 during the week. Cumulatively, 48 refugees (Kiryandongo 46, Rhino 1 and Imvepi 1) have tested positive and as of 10 November 2020. Eleven cases from Kiryandongo are still receiving treatment under home based care approach. The rest were successfully treated and discharged.

As of 10 November 2020, a total of four confirmed COVID-19 cases were undergoing treatment at the COVID-19 treatment unit in Arua Regional Referral Hospital. In Imvepi settlement, three positive support staffs from the International Rescue Committee (IRC) are undergoing treatment at non-traditional isolation facility at Zone 3 Health Centre. Cumulatively 197 (11 refugees and 186 nationals) COVID -19 positive cases (Kiryandongo 137, Arua 58 and Koboko 2) are under home care.

Eleven humanitarian workers (UNHCR Kiryandongo 6, ZOA Rhino 5) tested positive for COVID-19 during the week. Cumulatively, 31 humanitarian workers have so far tested positive since the outbreak of the pandemic as detailed below:

Partner	UNHCR	OPM	IRC	WMU	TPO	HADS	DRC	RICE	ACF	WVI	ACAV	ZOA	Total
Number	07	02	04	02	02	01	02	01	01	03	01	05	31

With support from UNHCR, IRC conducted mentorships for health workers in seven out of the fourteen targeted health facilities within Imvepi and Rhino settlements. The activity was facilitated by trainers from Ministry of Health and District Local Government. The focus was on prevention of Malaria and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) in pregnancy.

From 2 to 8 November 2020, two nutrition personnel from IRC in Kiryandongo participated in a training on the revised Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) guidelines in Hoima district. The training was organized by Hoima Regional Referral Hospital, with support from Ministry of Health nutrition division.

From 4 to 6 November 2020, Save the Children (SCI) with support from UNHCR and WFP, conducted five training sessions for 29 nutrition care support groups in Rhino camp settlement. The training was on infant and young child feeding practices, as well as dietary diversification through kitchen gardening.

Protection

New Arrivals Received

Imvepi received a total 61 new arrivals consisting of 16 households. They are South Sudanese refugees who entered Uganda through Goboro entry point. Their registration will be done as soon as the procurement of the needed PEEs is finalized.

Legal and Physical Protection

During the reporting week, Danish Refugee Council (DRC) Kiryandongo handled 12 cases comprising of domestic violence 2; physical assault 1; unlawful wounding 1; defilement 1; land 1; ADR cases 5; and theft 1; from various clusters in the settlement. Of the 12 cases followed up, six cases (domestic violence 1; land 1; theft 1; and ADR 3) were eventually resolved.

SGBV

On 09 November 2020, UNHCR in liaison with DRC held an SGBV *SASA!* dissemination meeting at UNHCR Imvepi base camp. The meeting was held to discuss findings of the *SASA!* rapid assessment on phase 2 (the awareness phase). In attendance were 26 participants (11 female and 15 male) representing UNHCR, DRC, OPM, WVI, RWCs, IRC and police. Some key recommendations from the meeting included;

- Scaling up of *SASA!* awareness activities in the community;
- Widening the scope of the *SASA!* teams in the settlement;
- The *SASA!* phase 2 (awareness phase) activities to be repeated by DRC within their SGBV programming since the evaluation revealed limited knowledge about the phase;
- DRC to invest in printing and dissemination of *SASA!* phase 2 IEC materials to enhance knowledge about awareness on SGBV/*SASA!* community engagement.
- Train leaders and communities on *SASA!* phase 2.

UNHCR facilitated a three-day SGBV case management training organized by CARE in Arua, from 4 - 6 November 2020. The training drew participants, especially case workers, from (DRC, SCI, CEFORD, CARE) Uganda Police, and IRC health workers, with a cumulative total of 15 members (12 female and 3 male) trained. The topics covered included; GBV information management system; case management principles; survivor centered approach; psychosocial support to survivor; and referral pathways.

Education

The District Education Response Plan Monitoring and Evaluation Capacity Building workshop was held in Arua City, from 5 - 6 November 2020. It was organized by the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES), Education Response Plan (ERP) Secretariat, in collaboration with UNHCR, UNICEF and key education partners. Fifty participants (9 female and 41 male) drawn from education and planning offices of Yumbe, Koboko, Madi Okollo and Terego DLGs, graced the activity. The workshop focused on synchronizing data collection tools and indicators in line with the MoES set standards, since the new UNHCR education strategy is inclined on including refugees into the national systems.

Uganda National Examinations Board (UNEB), has awarded Kiryandongo High School an Examination Centre Number (U3906) with a sitting capacity of 105 candidates. This is based on classroom capacity that was presented to the verification team during their assessment mission in September 2020. This is a very big relief to UNHCR in terms of cutting costs related to examination handling in external schools and centres, for PoCs who are in candidate classes.

Livelihoods

UNHCR, DCA and OPM paid two courtesy visits to officials of Eden and Odobu villages in Rigbo Sub-county Rhino Camp settlement. During the visit, the team discussed the possibility of getting land for mass rice production for refugees. The local authorities pledged their commitment to dialogue with the landlords, to provide the required land for promotion of livelihood activities, especially cultivation of rice.

DCA, with support from UNHCR, through the emergency livelihood project, supported the PoCs settled in Jakiza Zone 4 with agricultural inputs (eggplants, cabbages, okra, dodo, sukumawiki, cowpeas, maize, beans, potato vines) and hand hoes. A total of 350 households were supported with the intention of enhancing the livelihood of the beneficiaries. Relatedly, 10 community-based facilitators (3 female and 7 male) have been identified to conduct routine mentorship and follow up.

WASH

A country level online technical unit meeting was held by UNHCR WASH staff on 06 November 2020, to discuss progress of the ongoing infrastructure projects funded by ECHO. It was revealed that, ECHO had an additional USD 400,000 towards infrastructural projects. As a result, the technical team members were tasked to identify existing infrastructure gaps under their respective areas of responsibility, for possible funding.

Distribution of WASH Non-Food Items (NFIs) comprising of shovels, slashers, pickaxes, sickles as well as metallic and plastic buckets, was conducted in Rhino Camp settlement, as part of the wider strategy to improve environmental sanitation in the settlement. During the latest distribution cycle, a total of 7,348 slashers, 7,348 shovels, 406 pickaxes, 46 sickles, 119 plastic buckets and 210 metallic buckets, were distributed in Omugo, Ofua, Ocea and Siripi zones.

Yumbe

Health, Nutrition and COVID-19 Response

The COVID-19 situation in Yumbe district remained stable within the week. Two new confirmations were made from members of the host community. A cumulative total of 71 COVID-19 cases and four deaths has been confirmed in Yumbe district, since the outbreak of the pandemic in Uganda.

No new cases among humanitarian workers and refugees have been reported. All refugees and humanitarian workers recovered and were discharged.

The immunization catch-up campaign was completed successfully across the five zones of Bidibidi settlement, through 90 vaccination posts. A total of 4,718 ten-year-old girls were reached with Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine for prevention of cervical cancer; 45,345 children below five-years reached

with deworming and vitamin A supplementation; 208 children reached with measles vaccine; 476 doses of DPT; and 413 doses of PCV given.

Situation at Goboro Transit Center now Converted to COVID-19 Institutional Quarantine Centre

One hundred and forty-two (142) new arrivals (68 male and 74 female) in 87 households, were relocated to Imvepi Reception Centre during the week. The poor road conditions created a challenge in the transportation.

Protection

UNHCR, and OPM, started the replacement of ration cards and attestations on 9 November 2020. The exercise is ongoing, alongside the food distribution, and shall continue during the entire period month of November 2020.

World Vision distributed a total of 20 bicycles to Child Protection Committees across Zone 4, to facilitate their work in a timely manner.

MID-WEST

Kyangwali Refugee Settlement (Kikuube District)

Health, Nutrition and COVID-19 Response

No new COVID-19 cases were reported in the last 21 days.

The central public health laboratories in Kampala are carrying out a study in COVID-19 in major hospitals, and Kyangwali Health Center III is included. The team is testing 100 people voluntarily, to assess the efficiency of different types of testing kits, including a rapid test diagnostic kit. This study is also meant to find out if there is presence of the COVID-19 virus in the blood of the patients, compared to the current tests which are swab based.

There were 4,349 out-patient consultations of which, 601 were nationals (13.8 percent). During this reporting period, 4,349 consultations were made, compared to 4,077 in the previous week. The leading causes of illness (proportional morbidity) were malaria (45.2 percent); acute respiratory tract infections (26.1 percent); skin diseases (7.2 percent); and watery diarrhea (3.7 percent). A total of 45,422 masks have so far been produced by 59 tailors, to fight COVID-19.

Allocation of land for medical screening at Sebagoro and Kaiso Points of Entry

The first visit by the District Health Officer (DHO) was made to Sebagoro and Kaiso points of entry. A follow-up meeting was held with fisheries, environment and the health team. This was to allocate a stable piece of land near the Immigration Office, to aid the screening of the person of concern when the border opens.

Protection

Out of the 33 asylum seekers from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) who crossed border illegally into the settlement, four households comprising 30 individuals were interviewed and profiled at Sebagoro. Of these 23 are children. OPM in Kyangwali was alerted about their arrival but, upon consultation with the Commissioner and the Kikuube Resident District Commissioner (RDC), it was agreed to refoul them. UNHCR and OPM at Kampala level are engaging and brainstorming on how the situation can be resolved, by allowing the new arrivals to be admitted into the Kagoma Quarantine Centre, for a more systematic and holistic approach. From the initial rapid assessment, several partners have responded positively to the call of supporting the new arrivals at Sebagoro. War Child Holland, Save the Children and LWF have committed several items.

UNHCR and CARE, an operational partner, conducted eight dissemination sessions on the revised SGBV referral pathway for 128 refugee leaders, in the villages of Maratatu (A, B, C and D), Kavule, Kasonga, Mombasa and Kirokole. The leaders observed the need to strengthen coordination among partners in a timely manner, and to print copies for leaders and community structures.

SOUTH WEST

Health, Nutrition and COVID-19

Nakivale settlement registered 11 new COVID-19 positive cases during the week. The eleven cases included: three partner staff; six health workers; one community member; one alert; and two contacts. Currently, there are 12 cases admitted at Rwekubo HCIV and seven under treatment at Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital.

In Nakivale, 94 contacts were listed and are under home quarantine. Sixty-nine samples were collected and taken to CPHL for testing during the week. The team continues with contact tracing, community sensitization and awareness campaigns.

In Kanungu, there are 16 persons under quarantine and no additional positive case were registered during the week. Kisoro district did not register any COVID-19 positive case.

Kyegegwa district confirmed a third COVID-19 positive case during the week. The case was a 79-year-old male resident of Kyegegwa Town Council, who developed symptoms consistent with COVID-19. He required hospitalization with ventilator support, and he is currently admitted at Mubende COVID-19 treatment center. The district statistics still stand at three confirmed, one active and two cases recovered.

Protection and Education

In Kyaka II, UNHCR, OPM and Alight staff facilitated a-half-day training of 7 Police Officers (6 male and 1 female) deployed in the settlement on 5 November 2020. The training focused on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, Code of Conduct and International Protection.

In Rwamwanja, six medical workers (3 male and 3 female) from Medical Teams International (MTI) and three UNHCR staff (1 male and 2 female) in Rwamwanja field unit, were trained in resettlement on 'medical grounds'. The training was conducted by the Assistant Public Health Officer and Resettlement Expert from Kyaka II, on 10 November 2020.

In Kyaka II, the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) partners enrolled 15 children (6 male and 9 female) from Bukere A and B. The children who were exposed to extreme stress with speech difficulties, attention and compulsive behavior, received therapy. The children were helped to begin controlling their difficult behavior through the belief that, repetition would allow them to change their inner thoughts in a more meaningful way.

Finn church Aid (FCA) with support from Save the Children International (SCI) in Rwamwanja, begun the process of distributing Early Childhood Development (ECD) kits to the 11 centres supported by SCI and six centres attached to primary schools. This will contribute to increased enrolment and retention, as well as a safe learning environment for the learners.

In Kyaka II, 1,380 radios were distributed in 11 primary schools. The radios will assist the children to engage in distant learning, especially those who are not in the candidate classes and are still at home.

In Nakivale, Windle International Uganda (WIU), and Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), handed over completed civil works at the Kashojwa Primary School on 5 November 2020. The three-classroom blocks were constructed by NRC with funding from ECHO. The two latrine blocks of five-stances each, were constructed by WIU, with funding from 'Education Cannot Wait' (ECW). This development has led to improved pupil-to-classroom and pupil-to-latrine ratios hence, a reduction in congestion of pupils in the classrooms. The latrines will improve hygiene standards in schools.

New Arrival Trends and Analysis/Border Monitoring

In Rwamwanja, 197 individuals (10 asylum seekers and 187 new births) were newly registered from 4 - 11 November 2020. All the 10 asylum seekers (2 female and 8 male) were Congolese who had entered the settlement before the boarder closure in March 2020. Of the 187 new births (96 male and 91 female), 184 (96 male and 88 female) are Congolese, two females are South Sudanese and one female was a Rwandese.

In Nakivale, voluntary repatriation interviews were carried out for 69 cases of Burundians who expressed interest to return to their country of origin.

During the week, the registration team registered 310 new births from three nationalities: Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda in Nakivale. Burundians were 115, Congolese 158 and 37 Rwandan.

Operational Challenges

COVID-19 Challenges

IRC frontline workers in Arua treating confirmed positive cases raised concern over the risks they are exposed to and requested to be paid risk allowances.

Home-based care continued to be a challenge due to lack of facilities for self-isolation.

Lack of testing kits makes it difficult to monitor progress of cases and confirm alerts prior to discharge.