



Population

53,361 (as of 13 May 2014)

Size

127.2 km² (49.1 miles²) with **36** villages

Location

Rwamwanja settlement is located in Kamwenge district, South West Uganda.

Administration

OPM Settlement Commandant: Mr Mugenyi David
 Deputy Settlement Commandant: Mr Tuherize Francis
 UNHCR Field Unit Rwamwanja Team Leader: Mr Charlie Brewah, Associate Field Officer. The field unit comprises of 10 staff

Country of Origin (as of 31 March 2014)

Country Of Origin	Asylum seekers	Refugees	Total
Congo DRC	2	52,185	52,187
Rwanda	7	13	20
TOTAL	9	52,198	52,207

Working in partnership

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) works with the Government of Uganda, through OPM, other UN agencies, NGOs and civil society in providing protection and support to people of concern. The Government of Uganda (OPM) ensures the security of all refugees and has a generous policy which provides refugees in settlements with plots of land (50 metres x 50 metres) in order for them to become self-sufficient.

Implementing Partners for 2014

Settlement management, Coordination, and Security: Office of the Prime Minister (OPM)
Protection: Lutheran World Federation (LWF)
Community services: LWF
Education: Windle Trust Uganda (WTU)
Health/Nutrition: Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA)
Water/ Sanitation: LWF
Livelihoods & Environment: LWF
Shelter/ Logistics: African Initiative for Relief Development (AIRD)
Reception Center: LWF

Operating Partners for 2014

Food: World Food Programme (WFP) through Samaritans Purse, Feed the Hungry (meals in schools)
Child Protection: ICRC/ Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS), UNICEF/ Save the Children
Health/Nutrition: WHO, UNFPA/ ACORD (Reproductive Health), UNICEF (nutrition), WFP (nutrition)
GBV: UNFPA/ ACCORD, AHA
Water/ Sanitation: IOM, UNICEF/Water Missions LWF/GOAL
Livelihoods & Environment: FAO/ Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)
PSN support: FIDA (PCU-FI)
Early Childhood Development Centres: UNICEF/ Save the Children
Infrastructure: LWF (education), IOM (health, education)

Operational Context / Background

Since the beginning of 2012 Uganda has faced a large influx of refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Rwamwanja settlement was re-opened by the Ugandan Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) on the 17 April 2012 to accommodate these new refugee arrivals from the DRC. Rwamwanja has a maximum capacity of 55,000 people.

The security situation in eastern DRC has been volatile since July 2011 causing refugees to cross into Uganda at a regular rate. However, fresh fighting in April 2012 between break-away militia the M-23 and the DRC government forces (FARDC) as well as other local armed groups such as the Mai Mai and the FDLR has uprooted thousands of refugees and caused fresh influxes of refugees. Despite the defeat of M23 forces in November 2013 refugees continue to cross into Uganda as a result of continuing insecurity in the region.

2013 Highlights

- Strengthened SGBV referral pathway: the number of SGBV incidents reported in the settlement doubled due to successful dialogue with and mobilization of, the community.
- Constructed a permanent reception centre in Mahani for newly arriving refugees.
- Built a new maternity ward, In-patient department, new health centre II in Kyempango

Sectoral Activities

- **Emergency:** As of 13 May 2014, 68 convoys have been received from Matanda TC and Nyakabande TC combined. Newly arrived refugees receive a plot of land (50 metres x 50 metres) and basic necessities including jerry cans, mats, treated poles, hoes, saucepans, plastic sheeting, mosquito nets, slashers, pangas, soap, rope, and food as well as sanitary materials for women. Newly arrived refugees are initially housed in Mahani reception centre (RC) where they receive 2 hot meals daily until allocated plots of land. Average stay in the RC is 3-4 days.
- **Health:** Most common diseases in Rwamwanja are malaria, respiratory tract infections and watery diarrhea. There are also currently high instances of anaemia within the settlement, with 48.8% of women found to be anaemic. There is a health centre III at Rwamwanja base camp as well as a newly constructed health centre II in Kyempango. There are 49 technical health staff on the ground in the settlement comprising of AHA and local government staff. The clinician to patient ratio is 1:100. There is one ambulance supported by UNHCR, 1 donated by MSF-F to AHA and 1 provided by UNFPA for referrals. Emergencies are referred to Fort Portal hospital some 90km away. Around 170 Village Health teams (VHTs) are also used as a way to reach out to the refugees outside of clinics and health centres. They are the entry point to health services and help on issues including malaria control and prevention, HIV/Aids, nutrition and hygiene promotion as well as mobilising the community for general health activities. There are 10 health outreaches: 6 within the settlement and 4 in the host community.
- **WASH:** Rwamwanja currently has 55 functional boreholes and shallow wells providing clean and safe water to the refugees. 51 of these are installed with handpumps, while 4 are motorized with pipeline distribution to 11 tapstand locations (40 water taps). Water coverage at the end of 2013 was 13 litres per person per day. Rainwater harvesting is also done at all health centres, schools and reception centre; reducing the need to truck water to these locations. Household latrine coverage is currently about 68% (49% of which are to UNHCR standards) and there are 157 communal latrine stances in various institutions across the settlement.
- **Protection:** Protection activities include identification of separated and unaccompanied children and tracing to re-unite families, recreational activities and referral of refugees. Counseling and follow-up support is provided for people who have experienced sexual and physical abuse. 2 Protection houses have been set up for SGBV and child protection cases. In 2013 325 cases of Gender Based Violence were reported and followed up with medical help and counseling which is an increase from 142 in 2012. 126 of these were also provided with legal assistance. Sexual and reproduction education has been taught in schools within the settlement in an attempt to reduce on sexual violence. There are 140 SGBV task force members in 36 villages comprising 4 members per village, involved in preventive measures regarding SGBV and a SGBV task force committee comprising representatives from SGBV stakeholders i.e. UNHCR, OPM and partners to jointly manage sensitive SGBV cases.
- **Community Services:** Support is provided to refugees through distribution of non-food items, construction of shelters for people with specific needs (PSNs) and psychosocial support to vulnerable refugees. Vulnerable groups include the elderly, people with disabilities, single parents, unaccompanied/separated children, people with medical conditions and children at risk. There are also 2 unaccompanied minor shelters for unaccompanied and separated children in the settlement. In 2013 refugee social workers were selected and trained in villages across the settlement to assist with community mobilization and sensitization. There are 5 child rights clubs with a total of 100 members. 306 Refugee welfare committees have been set up in 34 villages to help play quasi-political roles within their communities. Self-reliance, community empowerment and ownership are promoted through sensitisations and awareness raising activities.
- **Education:** There are 20 early childhood development centres and child friendly spaces which are run by Windle Trust Uganda (WTU) and Save the Children. There are 5 primary schools in the settlement, 3 of which are run by UNHCR/WTU: Rwamwanja primary, Mahani primary, Nteziryayo primary and the newest - Kyempango primary. There is 1 secondary school. UNHCR, through WTU, has recruited 100 trained teachers across the settlement. Child rights clubs have been set up in 5 schools in Rwamwanja (Mahani primary, Nteziryayo primary, Rwamwanja primary, Nkoma church of Uganda primary and Rwamwanja secondary) along with Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) and School Management Committees (SMCs). 8,135 refugee children were enrolled in 2013, giving 77 % of the total number of school going age enrolled in primary education. The teacher: pupil ratio is 1:97 and classroom: pupil ratio is 1:145.
- **Livelihoods & Environment:** Providing access to high yielding varieties of common food crops, supporting crop post-harvest handling and informal vocational skills development including tailoring, hairdressing, baking, craft making and soap making for group-based income generation. There are now over 30 supported livelihoods groups in the settlement. Community savings & credit structures (Village Savings and Loan Associations) are promoted to increase refugees' access to cheap credit. Tree planting through community tree nurseries and "tree marking" are used for environmental conservation as well as support to access low-cost energy efficient technologies like Lorena stoves and charcoal briquettes. To date, over 5,000 households have benefited both directly and indirectly from the above interventions.

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