



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Key Figures

905,810

Registered
refugee Children

60%

Percentage of
children amongst
refugee
population

47,796

Number of
unaccompanied
or separated
children (UASC)

**529,562
(35%)**

Registered
Adolescents

71%

Percentage of
Children under
12 years



HIGHLIGHTS

Child protection actors in the Uganda Operation continued various activities in strengthening prevention and response services through enhanced identification, and effective case management that emphasizes prioritization and the best interest procedures. The services includes placement of UASCs in alternative care, psychosocial services, provision of material support including NFIs etc.

- The Child Protection Sub-Working Group in Bidibidi in collaboration with other sector groups and the Yumbe District Local Government organized the International Youth Day celebration in Ariwa I reception with the theme “safe spaces for youths”. Activities included the crowning ceremony of the 2017 Bidibidi’s Got Talent winners, youth motivational speeches, voluntary HIV testing and counselling and various entertainment activities etc. The main celebration was preceded by activities such as radio talk shows on youth programming, games and sport, awareness raising on SGBV prevention and response in both refugee and host communities. The main event attracted 2,000 adolescents and youths.

- UNHCR and partners launched joint SGBV/Child Protection case management meetings in Rhino Camp and Omugu to discuss complex cases of SGBV concerning children. Three cases were handled in each meeting. Similar joint SGBV/CP case management meetings will be replicated in Imvepi and other settlements in the coming weeks. Similarly an interagency case conference was held in Pagirinya settlement, Adjumani to discuss protection interventions for 7 cases comprising 13 children. Cases included early marriage, neglect and abandonment.

- Child protection actors conducted a series of capacity building sessions for child protection community structures in settlements across the operation. In Adjumani, 24 foster parents benefitted from a training on finance management and business skills to enhance their livelihood opportunities. In Rhino and Imvepi, trainings were conducted for 71 CFS facilitators on psychosocial services and the

UGANDA

Child Protection Thematic Report, August 2018

Child Protection Minimum Standards (CPMS). Training and mentorship meetings were held with child protection community structures in several settlements in Arua, Kyangwali, Kiryandongo etc., aimed at strengthening the capacity of these groups in monitoring and reporting on child protection issues. Themes covered included SGBV against children, their roles in promoting peaceful coexistence etc.

Key Achievements

Children receiving case management services:	24,673
Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) reunified with parents or customary caregivers:	178
Children in foster care:	6,341
Best Interests Assessments conducted:	2,227
Total # of functional Child Friendly Spaces (CFSs):	143
Average monthly attendance of children in child-friendly activities:	148,721
Total number of functional Child Protection Coordination Working Group:	13
Number of Adolescents participating in targeted programmes:	6,462

- Plan International supported the Birth notification of 200 under 5s children in settlements in Adjumani, with the Notifications submitted to the National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA) for issuance of birth certificate. Birth registrations interventions are also ongoing in most settlements across the operation, including training of stakeholders on the newly introduced birth registration tool by NIRA.
- 3 child friendly spaces in Omugu settlement including the new relocation sites, which will help increase access to CFS services to hundreds of children.



Figure 1: International Youth Day Celebration in Bidibidi, August 2018

CHILD PROTECTION NEEDS

- Increase support to foster families by engaging them in livelihood/income generating activities.
- Construct and equip CFSs and ECDs in new settlements including Omugo, Lamwo and Kyangwali and additional CFS facilities in old settlements including Nakivale and Oruchinga in the South West, and Palorinya in the West Nile
- Increase access to formal education (secondary & tertiary) for children with special needs (including Children with Disabilities (CWDs)) through provision of funds, scholastic materials and assistive devices.
- Establish vocational skills training centers and livelihood support for out-of-school adolescents and youths.
- Material assistance for children at risk and other children in foster families

CHILD PROTECTION CHALLENGES

- Increased cases of child headed households.
- Limited access to education due to inadequate school infrastructure in especially new settlements in A
- Lack of support to foster parents. This causes them to neglect/abandon children under their care, coupled with high expectation of material benefits by foster parents.
- Increased cases of teenage pregnancies resulting from negative social norms including child marriage which has led to the increase of school drop-out rates in settlements.
- Inadequate child protection workforce for partners due to high turnover of staff, undermining effective monitoring and follow-up of children undergoing case management. The current children/ caseworker ratio is estimated at 100:1, as opposed to the international standard of 25:1.
- Inadequate support for community-based child protection groups, which has often hindered their role in identifying and referring children at risk for case management services, and effectively monitoring and reporting on the children.
- Inadequate incentives for CPCs which affects mobilization and proper dissemination of CP information in the community.
- Limited targeted support to out-of-school adolescents and youths.

CHILD PROTECTION INTERVENTIONS

- **Strengthening of case management services** through training and capacity development, enhanced identification, prioritization and referral of children at risk
- Strengthening **Child protection Coordination** through regular meetings of Child Protection Sub-Working Groups in the settlements and at national level.
- Timely placement of unaccompanied children in **alternative care arrangements** (mainly family-based foster care), and training of foster parents on positive parenting and providing them with livelihood support
- Establishment and 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 unaccompanied and separated children through collaboration with the ICRC and the Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS)
- **Establishing CFSs and Early Childhood Development Centers (ECDs)** to provide children the space for playing, socializing and build resilience. Currently Palabek has none functional CFS.
- **Providing psychosocial and mental health services** for children having been identified as having psychosocial distress.
- Awareness raising through dialogue sessions, media campaigns



Interactive learning session in Zone 6 block 2 Palabek Settlement

CHILD PROTECTION PARTNERS AND RESOURCES

Implementing Partners: DRC, LWF, Hijra; WVI, AAH, TPO; SCI; InterAid Uganda, HADs
Operational Partners: UNICEF; SCI, WVI, Plan, ASVI; URCS; War Child Canada; War Child Holland; Tutapona; CAFOMI

Workforce dedicated to child protection: **398**

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