

UNHCR Monthly Protection Update

Child Protection (CP)

December 2018



Key Figures

735,524

Registered refugee children

62%

Percentage of children amongst refugee population as of December 2018

49,887

Number of unaccompanied or separated children (UASC)

72%

Percentage of children under 12 years

27%

Percentage of Adolescents



Distribution of material support for at risk children in Kiryandongo

HIGHLIGHTS

- In Kyangwali, 37 caretakers and parents of 25 (13M, 12F) children living with disabilities received psychosocial counselling and material support. The children received play materials to support their emotional well-being.
- UNHCR in Kyangwali organized a refresher training on psycho-social support for children and child-friendly interview skills for Child Protection partners.
- In Kiryandongo, social workers organized the distribution of material support to 145 (64M, 81F) unaccompanied, separated and other children at risk including children living with disabilities, whose needs had been assessed. They received items such as clothes, blankets, wheel chairs, and mattresses to enhance their well-being.
- Children's competitions were organized in Kiryandongo Child Friendly Spaces (CFS), including debates, football for both boys and girls, drawings, quiz, poems, riddles, dancing among others. More than 1000 children participated in the event.
- In Arua, 487 community members (200M, 287 F) attended an awareness raising session on the rights of children and child participation, facilitated by OPM, Police, the Sub-county Chief and the Community Development Officer. Another session on protection issues / child abuse was attended by 318 community members (166 M, 152 F).
- 196 children (103M, 93F) participated in children's parliament in 5 primary schools in Omugo, Rhino. The topics discussed by the club members included child neglect, child abuse, universal primary education and early marriage.
- The Child Protection Sub-Working Group members, in collaboration with other sectoral partners, successfully concluded the Bidibidi Got Talent (Season II) project in Bidibidi settlement aimed at enhancing child protection and youth empowerment as well as contributing to peaceful co-existence through promoting cohesion between refugee and host community.



Youth showcasing their talent during the Bidibidi Got Talent Finale.

- UNHCR facilitated the reunification of eleven refugee children and one adult from Kakuma, Kenya with their family members in Bidibidi. The family was supported with Core relief items and food.
- During the reporting period, 222 BIAs were conducted in the South West operation.

- UNHCR facilitated a training in Gulu on the new Best Interest Procedures, PSEA and UNHCR Code of Conduct. Participants were from LWF, operational partners and District Probation Officer for Kitgum. As part of the action points, participants agreed to strengthen documentation and analysis of BIAs and BIDs.
- UNHCR facilitated a support mission by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development on 2-9 December to Adjumani and Arua districts to address the issue of illegal orphanages situated in the peripheries of the refugee settlements, accommodating refugee children who are neither orphans nor unaccompanied children. The mission visited and assessed the orphanages and made a number of conclusions on measures to be taken, including closure of certain orphanages, relocation of children under 5 to babies' homes, and instructions to the children's homes to complete documentation of all children being hosted for review by UNHCR and OPM, and reunification of children who have families.

Key Achievements:

Children receiving case management services:	13,351
Best Interests Assessments conducted	683
Children in foster care:	3,223
Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) reunified with parents or customary caregivers:	71
Total # of functional Child Friendly Spaces (CFSs):	143
Average monthly attendance of children in child-friendly activities:	25,310
Total number of functional Child Protection Coordination Working Group:	13
Number of Adolescents participating in targeted programmes:	24,310

CHILD PROTECTION NEEDS

- Lack of or limited menstrual hygiene materials for girls of reproductive age and insufficient warm clothes, shoes and other types of material assistance for children at transit centers and settlements.
- Material assistance such as assistive devices and soap to caregivers and parents of children living with disabilities.

- Lack of shelter support to foster families of unaccompanied children.
- Increased 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.

CHILD PROTECTION CHALLENGES

- Inadequate and irregular presence of authorities and CP partners at food distribution points despite increased numbers of UASCs showing up for food collection.
- Difficulties in keeping track of cases due to high mobility of refugees and spontaneous reunification and relocation.
- Lack of laptops for case workers to support the Best Interest Procedure (BIP) process.
- Lack of access to water and insufficient sanitation facilities in some CFSs.
- Lack of stipends for ECD volunteers affecting children learning.
- Limited number of caseworkers compared to the number of children at risk requiring support.
- Inadequate recreational activities at youth centres (indoor games and story books among others) as expressed by youth during consultations.
- Issues related to alternative care arrangements, especially physical abuse, child labor, underfeeding by relatives, domestic violence in some foster families, etc. were reported.
- Birth notifications are issued at health centers in all settlements, but birth certificate issuance is not automatic. Challenges ranging from clarity on payment to delays in processing at the districts level have been reported.
- The inadequate or lack of standardized incentives for volunteers and Child Protection Committees (CPCs) affects the mobilization and proper dissemination of CP information in the community. The lack of stipend for ECD volunteers was reported to affect children's learning.

CHILD PROTECTION INTERVENTIONS

- Strengthening **case management services** through training and capacity development, enhanced identification, prioritization and referral of children at risk

- Provision of **alternative care arrangements** (mainly family-based foster care) for unaccompanied children and training of foster parents on positive parenting and providing them with livelihood support
- Strengthening **child protection coordination** through regular meetings of Child Protection Sub-Working Groups in settlements and at national level.
- 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 UASC through collaboration with the ICRC and the Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS)
- Providing children with spaces for playing, socializing and building resilience, through **strengthening CFSs and ECD services**.
- Strengthening **psychosocial and mental health services** for children having been identified as having psychosocial distress.
- **Awareness raising** through dialogue sessions, media campaigns and advocacy on child protection

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: **367**

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