

Key Figures

112,991

Identified Persons with specific needs

30%	Children at risk (including UASC)
20%	Older persons at risk
9%	Serious medical condition
12%	Disability
11%	Single parents
8%	Woman at risk
1%	Other



Installation of a Solar Powered phone charging Kiosk in Magamaga G, Kiryandongo. Photo©Katuura P. UNHCR

Community-Based Protection and Community Mobilization

- In Jan 2019, the leadership structure of Omugo, village 6, Rhino Camp was established with 11 members (2F/9M), with representation of the different tribal groups.
- Meetings with Refugee Welfare (RWC) and community workers were held together with OPM in Oruchinga and Nakivale settlements. RWCs expressed needs for identity cards, and concerns over delayed distribution of sanitary materials and repair of PSN houses.
- In Bidibidi, 450 RWC members (180F/270M) received livelihood training to gain knowledge of savings and financial planning, resulting in group formation and commencement of savings meetings among the refugee leadership structures. This will enable joint income generating activities and establishment of other small businesses within the settlement, resulting in improved welfare and commitment to serving the refugee community.
- 197 RWC members (59F/138M) and partners participated in three Zonal coordination meetings across the 3

Zones in Imvepi, and partners provided feedback to concerns raised by the refugee leaders. In addition, UNHCR, OPM and protection partners held two meetings with 26 (3F/23M) refugee leaders to plan for integrated village meetings, which will bring together refugees of different diversity within a village. 14 RWC members (5F/9M) participated in a consultative meeting regarding the community's concerns over leadership in one of the villages in Zone 2. The need to invest more in capacity building of leaders on leadership skills was highlighted.

- In Adjumani, a community dialogue was conducted in Mungula, aiming to empower women to take up leadership roles and responsibilities. A total of 287 women attended the meeting. The issues discussed included women and children's rights, leadership roles, responsibilities, and empowerment of women.
- ARC organized a youth talent show in Kyaka II to engage the youth in performing arts as a platform for strengthening and creating awareness about mental health and SGBV.
- As follow up to the Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD) Deep Dive workshop in November 2018, a joint discussion was held with partners in Kiryandongo regarding the plan of action for the implementation of the updated AGD Policy, and challenges/gaps and planned activities were reviewed.
- A total of 57 (16M/41F) Congolese in Nakivale participated in a community led activity to clean the surrounding environment.

Persons with Specific Needs (PSN)

- 21 PSN home visits were conducted in Kiryandongo to assess the general living conditions of PSNs. Among the issues identified were inadequate household non-food items, dilapidated houses and lack of assistive devices. Plans to support such PSNs will be implemented by Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the implementing partner for shelter. In addition, DRC together with social workers and leaders conducted assessments on the needs of persons living with disability and their appliances.
- A meeting with PSNs was held in Malembo C, Kyangwali to get feedback from the PSNs as well as identify their challenges. Issues raised included getting alternative food collectors for PSNs and abrupt changes in food distribution schedules, long distances to food distribution points, shortage of food and clothes, as well as soap. 63 people (28M/35F) attended the meeting.
- A joint assessment to identify PSN houses requiring iron sheets and poles replacement was conducted in Nakivale by OPM, HIJRA and UNHCR. 36 houses need construction poles and iron sheets, 5 need new latrines, 3 require complete renovation and 15 houses need doors and windows.
- In Imvepi and Rhino Camp, 87 PSNs (30F/57M) were assessed for their vulnerability and referred to partners including for WASH, livelihood, shelter and other material support. IRC conducted a rapid focus group discussion in Ofua Zone, Rhino Camp to gain a better understanding of required support for PoCs, attended by 132 individuals of diverse age, gender and diversity groups. A session was also conducted on how to engage PSNs in productive work and support them psychosocially while at home instead of leaving them idle which makes them more vulnerable.
- UNHCR held a consultative meeting with Terra (Operational Partner) to discuss the criteria for selection of refugees and host community for vocational skills training (Phase II) in Pagirinya settlement in Adjumani. Terra will target 65 PSNs (40 refugees and 25 host community) for training in tailoring, garment cutting, carpentry, joinery, knitting, and building.
- In Bidibidi, IRC supported 180 (F132/M48) refugees including PSNs during the continuous biometric verification process in zone 3 by identifying registration-related concerns, mobilising and supporting the PSN to reach the verification points. Protection and child protection partners in collaboration with UNHCR provided support to PSNs at various food distribution

points, through accompanying, referrals and ensuring safety at distribution points. This resulted in most people being able to get food and reduction in complaints of food theft.

Psychosocial Support

- In Bidibidi, there were six suicide attempts and one suicide during the month. TPO in collaboration with protection partners continued providing preventive and response mechanisms in relation to this issue, and supported 9 cases. Follow-up included assessment of survivors, psychological first aid, family mediation and home visits. Psycho education was also provided to patients and their families to enable them understand the situation and support patients' recovery. More home visits and follow up will continue to track healing progress of the clients.
- In Bidibidi, 216 individuals (children and adults) were reached with psychosocial support. These individuals were screened and assessed for mental health disorders and were enrolled for weekly group therapy sessions, with the beneficiaries exhibiting significant improvement in their mental well-being from the sessions.
- In Rhino Camp and Imvepi, psycho education by TPO reached 55 (16M/39F) and 40 (10M/30F) respectively. In order to enhance community-based psychosocial support interventions, three community based counsellors in Imvepi were identified and oriented on their roles, and identification and referral of cases.
- In Kyangwali, 34 refugees benefited from individual counselling, including cases of PTSD, stress, depression, SGBV and psychosis. The interventions intended to restore clients' hope for recovery, workable homeostatic mechanisms, and empowering them to identify their strength and improving their psychosocial well-being.
- 16 group sessions were conducted in Nakivale by TUTAPONA, attended by 304 persons (196F /108M). In Oruchinga, 6 group sessions were conducted and attended by 24 people. In Kyaka II, 10 children with mental disorders were assisted. In Rwamwanja, 5 group therapy sessions were conducted.

Accountability to Affected People

- An official launch of the Inter-Agency Feedback, Referral and Resolution Mechanism (FRRM) was conducted at the Refugee Community Centre in Kampala on 16 January. The event was attended by

members of the refugee and host communities, partner organizations, donors, OPM and UNHCR.

- In January, 1,351 cases were recorded through the helpline. The largest number of cases were from Nakivale settlement (742) followed by Kampala (247), with the largest number of calls related to protection, durable solutions, health, and registration. Majority of calls were from men and women between the ages of 25-35. The helpline was officially rolled out in Kyaka II in January. The helpline team also undertook missions to Arua to prepare for the roll-out, and to Nakivale and Mbarara to train partners and UNHCR.
- Feedback from the community on various protection/assistance issues continues to be received and addressed through various channels including community dialogues, integrated village meetings, complaints/suggestion boxes, protection desks / Information Support Centres (ISC). In Rwamwanja, a Community Based Protection Desk was established to take services closer to PoCs, and 24 cases were attended to during the month. In Adjumani, the opening of complaints boxes installed in Ayilo I, Agojo, Boroli, Baratuku, Elema, Nyumanzi and Pagirinya settlements was organized, and the complaints received are being followed up.
- As part of a community connectivity project funded by UNHCR Innovation Service, a solar powered system and phone charging station were installed adjacent to a Protection Desk in Kiryandongo. This will improve phone and internet connectivity including access to the helpline, and reduce distances and money refugees spend to charge their phones. The station will be fully managed by the refugee community who are working on a management plan. The equipment will be installed in five additional settlements in February.
- UNHCR and DRC organized and conducted community awareness campaigns on the FRRM in Alere and Mungula 1 settlement in Adjumani, to share information on the FRRM and various channels for lodging complaints, the role of refugees therein, existing referral pathways/mechanisms of handling and managing the received complaints. Community awareness-raising and sensitization on the FRRM were also conducted in Rwamwanja and Bidididi.

Peaceful Co-existence

- YSAT, a community-based organization founded by refugees, launched a peace campaign in Rhino Camp settlement, with the theme “**Advocating for Peace and**

Reconciliation in Rhino Camp” and “**Peace Starts with Me**”, to raise awareness on the role of youth in peace-building, conflict resolution and peaceful coexistence among refugees and host communities. Drama performances, testimony sessions, traditional dances and a football match were played at the launch. The launch was attended by 600 persons (450F/150M), mostly youth and women from refugees and host community.

- In Adjumani, a fight broke out during a football match on 30 January among Nuer youth who were divided along political lines. Some youth were badly injured. The youths involved have gone in hiding as the matter was reported to police. So far one youth was arrested by police and is in detention. UNHCR and OPM are organising a community dialogue with the Nuer community in Pagirinya over this issue.
- In Bidibidi Zone 4, Village 5, tribal violence between the Kakwa and Nuer broke out on 26 January, following an altercation in a football match on the previous day. Nine people were hospitalized and houses/household items were destroyed. A meeting to address the violence was attended by UNHCR, OPM, IRC, police, refugee leaders, and representatives of the two tribes, host community leaders and landlords. A further meeting was held where representatives from the two tribes reconciled. A joint assessment was carried out in the nine homes where property was destroyed. A security meeting was also held in Zone 4 village 5, to address security issues which arose in the violence.
- IRC in collaboration with protection partners organized a cultural gala in zones 2, 3 and 4 in Bidibidi under the theme “**Unity in Diversity**”. The gala aimed at promoting peaceful coexistence among host and refugee communities and uniting the diverse groups in the settlement. The event was attended by the refugee community, leaders, implementing partners, sub county official and leaders from the host community.
- In Bidibidi, the peace club patron conducted sessions with peace club members at Child Friendly Spaces (CFSs), and the key areas covered include drawing of pictures and designing peace messages on flip charts designing peace tree.
- Various other community dialogues focusing on peaceful co-existence were conducted in Kyangwali, Lobule, and Bidibidi with participation of refugee and host communities.
- The community in Twajiji in zone 1 in Bidibidi settlement chose to tell a story of peaceful coexistence between

different tribes, by showing people speaking and listening to one another at each phase in the community. This was painted by over 100 children composed of Ugandans and South Sudanese refugee artists, who are learning skills to be able to facilitate these programs on their own on a continuous basis.



Photo © Artolution

Gaps / Challenges

- Long distances and challenges for PSNs to access Food Distribution Points (FDPs) and lack of transport means for PSNs to access FDPs.
- Low level of women's participation in leadership structures due to power imbalance and cultural beliefs. Participation of youth and persons living with disabilities in leadership and community management structures is also inadequate.
- Limited incentives/support for community structures which affects their commitment to conduct outreaches and other intervention, as well as lack of centres/space to hold community meetings.
- Need for semi-permanent/permanent structures for ISCs and protection desks, to ensure confidentiality when engaging PoCs and to prevent vandalism. Vandalism of ISCs is a problem particularly in Imvepi where ISCs are temporary structures. Staffing shortage of ISCs / protection desks is also a concern.

- Inadequate shelter support to the PSNs including insufficient construction materials, existence of many PSNs in urgent need of shelter construction, and worn-out temporary shelters which expose PSN to various risks
- Shortage of/delays in distribution of menstrual hygiene kits for women and girls of reproductive age
- Need to strengthen psychosocial support and mental health services to address psychosocial needs of PoCs.
- Limited youth engagement in productive activities leading to idleness, delinquency and vulnerability to various protection risks.
- Poor road network limit mobility to conduct outreach activities.

Priorities / Interventions

- Enhance community-based protection mechanisms including community mobilization and empowerment, clear referral pathways, as well as individual outreach and case management
- Build on capacities of the community and support empowerment of women, youth and other diverse groups for their active engagement in community management and leadership structures.
- Establish effective and efficient complaints and feedback mechanisms and ensure that all actors provide timely protection, access and accountability to persons of concern, with particular attention to at-risk groups.
- Establish effective and efficient complaints and feedback mechanisms and ensure that all actors provide timely protection, access and accountability to PoCs, with particular attention to at-risk groups.
- Strengthen peaceful co-existence and promote resilience among and between refugees and host communities.

UNHCR implementing partners for community- based protection:

AAH, AIRD, ARC, CAFOMI, CTEN, District Local Governments, DRC, HIJRA, IAU, IRC, LWF, MTI, NRC, OPM, Tutapona, TPO

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