



## Key Figures

**734,426**

Registered refugee children

**61%**

Percentage of children amongst refugee population as of January 2019

**45,326**

Number of unaccompanied or separated children (UASC)

**71%**

Percentage of children under 12 years

**29%**

Percentage of Adolescents

# UNHCR Monthly Protection Update

## Child Protection (CP)

January 2019



*Some of the equipped CFS centres by World Vision International in Bidibidi settlement*

### HIGHLIGHTS

- In Bidibidi, World Vision International (WVI) in partnership with the East African Playground (EAP) equipped 6 selected Child-Friendly Space (CFS) centres with modern outdoor play materials to ensure improvement of children's access and child-friendly play therapy activities within the centres. The newly established CFS centre in Zone 6, Palabek was opened and is fully operational. A total of 102 children have so far been enrolled and are engaged in various age-aggregated activities such as storytelling, peer to peer counselling, and sports and games among others.
- A total of 35 (13F, 22M) participants attended a joint two day workshop for child protection duty bearers at Ariwa Sub-County, Yumbe District facilitated by American Refugee Committee (ARC). Participants included; Child and Family Protection Unit (CFPU) police officers, Community Development

Officers (CDOs), selected Refugee Welfare Councils (RWCs), Child Protection Committees (CPCs), WVI and Save the Children. The objective of the workshop was to equip child protection case workers with requisite skills and information on responding to child protection related incidences and to develop key action points for child protection interventions in 2019.

- In coordination with OPM, UNHCR and Sub county chiefs, AVSI has so far distributed 30 registration books to 30 Village Health Teams in order to start birth registration of children under the age of 5 years, born in Uganda in the sub counties of Rigbo, Uriama and Udupi, Arua District. In February, NIRA outreach team is expected to conduct registration of ready applications.
- A total of 313 (167B/146G) children (mostly UASC) were supported at the established litigation desks at the Food Distribution Points (FDPs) in Imvepi to access their monthly food ration through the authorized alternate food collectors. Additionally, in Lobule, 5 (3B/2G) children were supported to receive cash with the help of their alternates.
- As part of the inter-agency joint activities under the "Go Back to School campaign", 535 (296B/239G) UASCs from both Nakivale and Rhino Camp Settlements were engaged in various activities such as; Music, Dance and Drama (MDD), indoor games, education advocacy and counselling sessions among others to prepare them for the new academic year.
- A total of 1,642 (741M/901F) community members in settlements in Adjumani, Arua, Kyangwali and Yumbe attended monthly dialogue sessions on prevention of violence against children. The key issues discussed included high rates of alcoholism/drug abuse and how it influences violence against children,

protection risks and wellbeing of children, and peace building among others.

- In Rhino Camp, a community dialogue on child protection, peace building and community engagement was conducted where 790 PoCs participated including: 130 men, 186 women, 156 girls, 318 boys, and 26 persons from the host community.
- A total of 1375 (605M/770F) community based child protection structure members and parents attended 11 reflection meetings in both Omugo and Bidibidi Settlements. Key topics discussed included; positive parenting, effective communication with children, educational benefits, equal treatment of both girls and boys, and general child protection case management.
- In Rhino Camp, a total of 168 (89G/79B) selected adolescents participated in a 4 day training on life skills to equip them with the knowledge and the capacity to be change agents in addressing the protection risks they face and to empower them to advocate for the wellbeing of their fellow peers in the community.
- A total of 52 (26M/26F) adolescents from Oruchinga participated in a meeting facilitated by HIJRA focusing on school drop outs, discrimination and bullying of children at water points by nationals. WASH partners to engage the water user committees and local leadership to discuss prevention mechanisms against discrimination and bullying of children at water collection points.
- Across all the settlements, numerous BID panels were held with 56 BID reports tabled for discussion. Most of the BIDs were addressing cases for durable solutions.

### **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 centres 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.

### **Key Achievements:**

<b>Children receiving case management services:</b>	<b>7502</b>
<b>Best Interests Assessments conducted</b>	<b>415</b>
<b>Children in foster care:</b>	<b>1553</b>
<b>Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) reunified with parents or customary caregivers:</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Total # of functional Child Friendly Spaces (CFSs):</b>	<b>144</b>
<b>Average monthly attendance of children in child-friendly activities:</b>	<b>27,103</b>
<b>Total number of functional Child Protection Coordination Working Group:</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Number of Adolescents participating in targeted programmes:</b>	<b>8765</b>

### **CHILD PROTECTION CHALLENGES**

- Inadequate and irregular presence of authorities and CP partners at food distribution points despite the increased number of UASCs showing up for food collection.
- Difficulties to keep 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 stipend 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.
- High expectations from stakeholders most especially police, local leaders and local government officers who request bribes whenever POCs access child protection services.
- Inadequate transport facilitation to caseworkers greatly hinders the smooth and speedy assessment of cases especially where home visits are required.
- support
- Strengthening **Child protection Coordination** through regular meetings of Child Protection Sub-Working Groups in the 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 INTERVENTIONS**

- Strengthening **of 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

## **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**

### **Contacts:**

Gaele Chojnowicz, Child Protection Specialist [chojnowi@unhcr.org](mailto:chojnowi@unhcr.org)

Yoko Iwasa, Snr. Protection Officer (Community-Based) [iwasa@unhcr.org](mailto:iwasa@unhcr.org)