

UNHCR Monthly Protection Update

Child Protection (CP)

April 2019



Key Figures

- 750,369
Registered refugee children
- 44%
Percentage of children under 12 years
- 17%
Percentage of adolescents
- 36,000
Unaccompanied or separated children (UASC)
- 03
UASC reunified with parents or customary caregivers
- 09
Children in foster care
- 7,153
Children receiving case management
- 5,589
Adolescents participating in targeted programmes
- 22,171
Average monthly attendance of children in child-friendly activities
- 146
Total # of functional child friendly spaces (CFS)
- 13
Functional Child Protection Coordination Working Group



Children at the child friendly space (CFS) in Bidibidi settlement, Yumbe.

HIGHLIGHTS

- 72 (33M/39F) Best Interest Determination (BID) reports were conducted in Bidibidi, Adjumani, Arua, Kiryandongo, and Kyangwali settlements, of which 60 (25M/35F) were paneled for durable solutions.
- 674 (318M/356F) Best Interest Assessments (BIAs) were initiated in Nyakabande & Matanda transit centers, Nakivale, Oruchinga, Kyangwali, Adjumani, Lamwo, Bidibidi and Arua Refugee Settlements.
- 384 (185M/199F) UASC and children at risk in Bidibidi and Arua settlements were attended to at the litigation desks established at the Food Distribution Points (FDPs). Notably, the number of children appearing at the FDPs is gradually decreasing.
- 718 (408M/310F) children (including UASC) in Nyakabande transit centre, Kyangwali, Nakivale, Oruchinga, Adjumani, Arua and Bidibidi Settlements were supported with assorted core relief items such as supplementary food items, clothes, soap, footwear, sanitary materials, among others to improve their general welfare and personal hygiene.
- Child protection case workers visited 5,560 (2,693M/2,867F) UASC and children at risk in Nyakabande transit centre, Nakivale, Oruchinga, Adjumani, Arua and Bidibidi settlements. The major objective was to ascertain the children's coping mechanisms and

their general welfare to provide the necessary assistance.

- 31,612 (9170M/8112F) children received Psychosocial Support Services (PSS). In the settlement, both national and refugee children can access PSS structured play and age appropriate activities such as sports, games, life skill development and coping mechanisms at the Child Friendly Spaces (CFS).
- 16,827 (9,295M/7,532F) community members in Nakivale, Oruchinga, Bidibidi, and Arua Settlements attended community awareness sessions on child rights, parental roles and responsibilities, child protection referral pathway, child participation, birth registration, cultural matters, education, dangers of child marriages and teenage pregnancies and general case management for improved general living conditions of children in the communities.
- 533 (318M/215F) Child Protection Committee (CPC) members from Bidibidi, Nakivale and Oruchinga settlements participated in monthly reflection meetings. The different meetings focussed on identifying appropriate approaches to address the numbers of children at FDP during school time and to reinforce CPC roles in identifying, reporting and follow up of child related cases, progress in addressing these cases, and the efficiency of the referral pathway.
- 1,236 (406M/830F) foster parents in Arua and Bidibidi Settlements attended positive parenting sessions. The sessions aim at equipping parents to have positive attitude towards children and to know their roles and responsibilities in child upbringing, education, effective communication, parental role models and address the rampant cases of teenage pregnancies including creating awareness on the risks of parents sending children to the FDP during food distribution.

- In partnership with National Identification & Registration Authority (NIRA), district local governments, and with support of UNHCR and other agencies, **1313 (624M/689F)** children in Bidibidi and Nakivale settlements collected birth notifications from health centres and submitted birth registration forms to NIRA for issuance and printing of birth certificates. NIRA is also conducting stakeholder meetings in Rwamwanja to kick start the birth registration exercise.
- In partnership with Gulu Regional referral Hospital in the department of orthopaedic, 47 (26M/21F) children with critical medical condition from Bidibidi were screened for targeted support with fitted wheelchairs that match their size. After screening, 25 (16M/9F) were qualified for wheel chair support while 22 (10M/12F) were considered for other orthopaedic appliances.

CHILD PROTECTION NEEDS

- Lack of or limited availability of menstrual hygiene materials for girls, insufficient warm clothes, shoes and other types of material assistance for children.
- Increased access to formal education (secondary & tertiary) for children with special needs, including Children with Disabilities.

CHILD PROTECTION CHALLENGES

- Limited number of caseworkers compared to the number of children at risk requiring support.
- Equipment and tools such as laptops are insufficient to facilitate case management and do not correspond to the caseload and needs of caseworkers.
- Inadequate and irregular presence of authorities and CP partners at food distribution points despite the number of UASCs showing up for food collection.
- Factors such as high mobility of cases and the spontaneous and self-relocation are increasing difficulties in tracking and following up on cases.
- Lack of access to water and insufficient sanitation facilities in some Child Friendly Spaces (CFS).
- Inadequate recreational activities at youth centres (indoor games and story books among others) as expressed by youth during consultations.
- Birth notifications are issued at health centres in all settlements, but birth certificate issuance is not

granted. Challenges ranging from clarity on payment to delays in processing at the districts level have been reported.

- Inadequate/lack of standardized incentives for child protection volunteers and motivation to Child Protection Committees (CPCs) members, affects the efficiency of community mobilization.

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 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 relevant actors including 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.

CHILD PROTECTION PARTNERS AND RESOURCES

Implementing Partners: DRC, LWF, HIJRA, WVI, AAH, TPO, SCI, InterAid Uganda, HADs

Operational Partners: UNICEF, Plan International, ASVI, URCS, War Child Canada, War Child Holland, Tutapona, CAFOMI

Workforce dedicated to child protection: 367

Contacts: Mohaned Kaddam, Protection Officer (Child Protection), kaddamm@unhcr.org,