



Key Figures

339

Number of Police deployed

30

Number of female Police deployed

28

Number of Police Posts in Refugee Settlements

2,574

Number of refugees that received legal Assistance

22,901

Number of Refugees reached during community sensitization

67

Number of Packages Provided by UNHCR
(Fuel, accommodation, WASH facilities, protection house, vehicle, motorbikes and transport)

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A mobile court session in Bidibidi settlement.

Physical Safety and Security

- 1,444 (788 refugees, 656 nationals) crime incidents were reported in September. Physical assault, theft, domestic violence and theft remained the highest reported incidents in Arua settlements. In Bidibidi, 45 (19F/26M) criminal cases were registered. Of these, 17 cases were successfully resolved and 28 referred to police for further investigations and prosecution. Additionally, 12(8F/4M) cases of threatening violence, attempted suicide, forced marriage, arson, theft, and trafficking were attended to in Adjumani and Palabek.

Access to legal assistance and legal remedies

- 726 persons were accorded legal assistance through mobile court sessions facilitated by UNHCR, OPM, partners and Justice Law and Order Sector in Arua, Adjumani and Yumbe.
- UNHCR facilitated the transportation of 32 refugees to attend the hearing of their cases at Kyangwali Magistrate Grade One Court. 79 Criminal cases were attended to.
- In Rwamwanja, 408 (256M/152F) individuals were accorded legal assistance through individual case management, legal counselling, mobile courts, court case follow up and witness support, prison visit.
- UNHCR, OPM and partners provided legal counselling and sensitization to 245 (110F/135M) refugees and host community members in Yumbe, Adjumani, Lamwo, Nakivale and Oruchinga. Topics covered included refugee rights and obligations, defilement, child to child sex, divorce, criminal trespass and malicious damage, criminal offences and the procedure for reporting.

- UNHCR facilitated legal representation for 5 (4F/1M) cases in Lamwo and Kitgum Grade 1 and Chief Magistrate court respectively. UNHCR and partners also facilitated mediation of 39 cases in Kyangwali and Oruchinga settlements. All cases were resolved except for 05 cases in Oruchinga which were referred for further management.

- In Bidibidi, 17 (10F/7M) refugees were supported to access informal justice through community-based paralegals addressing civil cases such as debt claims, child neglect and land wrangles on plot boundaries among others.

Detention Monitoring

- UNHCR, OPM and partners conducted 15 joint detention monitoring visits in Arua, Koboko and Bidibidi. 8 visits were conducted to Arua Main Prison with 69 (6F/63M) refugee inmates, and Koboko Prison with 18 (4F/14M) refugee inmates. 6 visits were conducted in Yumbe and 35 refugees (all male) were identified in detention at the Yumbe and Bidibidi prison, Yumbe Central police station and other Police Posts including Kululu, Odravo and Bidibidi.
- One joint prison visit and advocacy was conducted to Kisoro and Ndorwa prisons. Prison officials were advised to track Non Food Items (NFI)/Core Relief Items (CRI) support to prisons.
- UNHCR conducted 07 (3M/4F) case follow ups at Oruchinga Police Post and Isingiro Magistrates Court concerning cases of malicious damage to property, defilement, physical assault, house breaking and theft.
- In Yumbe IRC supported 5 (male) released prisoners with transportation to Bidibidi settlement, processing of core relief items and integration into the settlement after having served their sentences.

Community Policing and Advocacy

- UNHCR in coordination with police, the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and partners conducted 2 community policing sessions reaching 175(107F/68M) PoCs in Kyangwali and 03 sessions in Rwamwanja reaching 366 (166F/200M).

- Additionally, 9 community sensitizations were held in Oruchinga and in Bidibidi reaching 1,574 (773M/801F) refugees and members of the host community. Further, 558 individuals (262F/296M) at Matanda transit centre were sensitized on refugee law, Ugandan law, human rights, their roles and responsibilities as well as co-existence with the host community.
- During the mobile court sitting held on 26th September at Imvepi Settlement Zone 3, UNHCR in coordination with Uganda Law Society, Public Relations Officer (PRO) of judiciary from Kampala and OPM facilitated the distribution of legal booklets and provided sensitization on access to justice.

Coordination

- UNHCR participated in District Coordination meetings convened in Arua and Yumbe. In attendance were the representatives of the judiciary, Police, DPP, Uganda Human Rights Commission, Justice for children, Prisons and the respective implementing partners among others. In Arua, key issues discussed include access to justice for refugees, need for training of medical workers on forensic medical examination, coordination between Arua Police Station and outposts in refugee settlements as well as the need for the OPM Police focal Point to disseminate monthly crime reports to all DCC stakeholders. In Yumbe, the committee greatly appreciated the support offered to law enforcement institutions (Judiciary, Police and Prisons).
- On 10th September, the Legal sector working group meeting was held in Arua. The purpose of the meeting was to evaluate the previous mobile court sittings held on 28th August and 5th September in Rhino camp settlement and make necessary improvements as well as plan for the third quarter joint detention monitoring in Koboko and Arua prisons.
- UNHCR in coordination with OPM held a meeting with the Somali Bantu in Nakivale Basecamp. The group raised the following challenges; discrimination against their children in schools as well as from other Somalis, lack of leadership, and lack of Non-food items.

Capacity Development

- UNHCR provided logistical support to law enforcement in Bidibidi and Rwamwanja. Yumbe Central Police Station as well as other stations and out posts of Odravo, Kululu, Ariwa Oluba and Yangani were supported with 240 litres of fuel and file folders to improve service delivery and response in Bidibidi.
- UNHCR in coordination with HIJRA facilitated the Kyangwali court with interpretation services in Swahili, Kigegere and Kinyabwisha during the hearing of cases. Court interpreters and witnesses were transported to testify in court. Seven cases were identified, assessed and files opened. Of these cases, 2 are pending mediation while 5 are pending investigation and arrest of the perpetrators by the police.
- In Bidibidi settlement, 6 mentorship meetings were held with 150 (62F/88M) community-based paralegals in Zones 1-5. This was aimed at building their capacity in alternative dispute resolution mechanisms with attention to mediation, rights, record keeping, documentation, procedures and key laws of Uganda.

Gaps Identified

- There are several obstacles stifling provision of access to justice. They include:
- Limited facilities for holding juvenile offenders at Police posts.
- Inadequate facilitation of Court personnel which affects discharge of court duties and participation in Mobile Courts.
- Limited knowledge of Ugandan laws coupled with limited knowledge of Court procedures.
- Inadequate facilitation of Police (fuel, vehicles and accommodation) continues to affect presence of Police in settlements. International standards require that one Police Officer is deployed per 500 individuals, current numbers of Police Officers deployed in all settlement totals to 339 which is below the required standard.
- Language barrier at the Police stations and courts remains a challenge for witnesses, this is coupled with difficulty in accessing interpreters for court which often results in miscarriage of justice.
- Long period of remand for refugee inmates due to failure to access sureties on grounds that refugees lack fixed places of abode.
- Some prisons have inadequate facilities (accommodation, permanent latrines, fences) leading to congestion and poor welfare of detainees.
- Delay in reporting of SGBV cases often affect investigation especially where material evidence is missing/tampered with leading to miscarriage of justice.
- Poor and prolonged investigation of cases due to limited capacity, lack of investigative skills, poor turn up of witnesses leading to frequent adjournments and case dismissal for want of prosecution.
- Delays in expediting cases (especially capital offences) due to intermittent court sessions, lack of legal representation and limited number of Judicial Officers to handle cases leading to increased case backlog.

Partners Implementing Access to Justice Response

Partners: IRC, HIJRA; DRC, ULS, ARC, RLP; InterAid Uganda, CAFOMI

Operational Partners: UNDP, LASNET

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