

UNHCR Monthly Protection Update

Child Protection (CP)

October 2019



Key Figures

797,696

Registered refugee children

60%

Percentage of children amongst refugee population

55,079

Number of children at risk including 40,009 (UASC) registered in proGres V4

45,046

Number of children at risk receiving case management support including 36,008 UASC



A detention monitoring team from OPM, UNHCR and protection partner LWF provide legal counselling to children at Arua Remand home ©Belmos, UNHCR

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- 672 (304F/368M) children were assumed to be at risk in Nyakabande & Matanda transit centres, Nakivale, Oruchinga, Kyangwali, Rwamwanja, Kyaka II, Adjumani, Lamwo, Bidibidi and Arua Refugee Settlements. Best Interest Assessments (BIAs) are being conducted to ascertain protection risks the children are exposed to and how to provide assistance.
- Across the operation there are 58 BIDs under the review process to be panelled
- 406 (186M/220F) children in Bidibidi and Arua settlements were supported to receive food from the various Food Distribution Points (FDPs) through the litigation desks.
- Child Protection partners conducted 2486 (1234M/1252F) home/shelter visits in Rwamwanja, Adjumani, Bidibidi, Kyangwali, Kyaka II and Kiryandongo to unaccompanied, separated and children at risk to monitor progress of case management, issues arising, and provide necessary assistance.
- In Kiryandongo, 410 (75M/335F) community members including children attended the commemoration of the International Day of the girl child at Whitaker Peace and Development Initiative grounds under the theme; **“Girl Force: Unscripted, Unstoppable.”** Emphasis was put on the need to strengthen protection, education and access to services for girls without discrimination. The event was graced by the Kiryandongo District LCV Vice Chairperson as the Guest of honour.
- 779 (387M/392F) Child Protection Committee (CPC) members from Bidibidi, Kiryandongo and Arua settlements participated in monthly reflection meetings. The meetings discussed the causes of increased cases of child misconduct, behavioural challenges and handling of child spontaneous arrivals in the settlement among others. The CPC members were encouraged to inform parents of the importance of education and monitoring performance and attendance in schools. They were also reminded to continue working closely with case workers for effective in-service delivery.
- 68 (37M/31F) child protection caseworkers from Bidibidi settlement attended a training on the revised guidelines on the Best Interest Procedure. The training was aimed at enhancing capacity of case workers in effective management of child protection cases.
- 10,882 (5,890M/4,992F) children from Kiryandongo, Bidibidi and Arua settlements accessed psycho-social support activities such as games, music and peer to peer mentoring from the Child Friendly Spaces (CFS). Additionally, the children were also mentored to support identification of child protection cases and report them to child protection actors for immediate interventions.

- 73 (34F/39M) children from Lobule settlement attended the establishment of child rights advocacy clubs in primary schools following previous awareness raising sessions. The main objective is to raise awareness on child rights, empowering children, and increasing meaningful child participation. Some children were elected to lead the established clubs.
 - 410 (66M/344F) alternative caregivers from Adjumani, Kiryandongo and Arua settlements were empowered through training on parenting skills including basics on child protection, parenting styles, conflict resolution and psychosocial needs of children, parenting without violence, child safeguarding and childcare among others. The training will empower caregivers and subsequently enable them better protect children under their care. Meanwhile, the caregivers highlighted key challenges they faced such as inadequate targeted support for fostered children living with disability, high school fees impacting enrolment and school retention rates, inadequate necessities, lack of shelter for adolescents among others.
 - 132 (73F/59M) children from Lamwo settlement participated in the Children's parliament and a debate on child rights. The events sought to strengthen meaningful participation of children as well as enable them to share their view on issues affecting them.
 - In Adjumani, UNHCR conducted a two days' Best Interest Procedures (BIP) rollout training targeting 56 child protection partner staff directly engaged in case management in Lamwo and Adjumani. The training aimed at enhancing the knowledge and understanding of UNHCR and partner staff on the concepts and approaches in the revised 2018 BIP guidelines, as well as strengthening skills in Child protection case management. Several action points were agreed upon such as implementation of the BIP SOPs, use of comprehensive BIA templates, improvement in case management and documentation of cases among others.
 - In Kiryandongo, 216 (156M/60F) children under alternative care attended group sessions and dialogue meetings to provide feedback on the care arrangements and ending violence against children. The children raised different concerns including being overworked at home, lack of basic needs, denial of their right to play, inaccessibility to education due to lack of school fees, abuse at home (physical, verbal, emotional), poor housing among others. Appropriate advice was given to both children and their caregivers to improve their general wellbeing.
 - In Bidibidi settlement, UNHCR in partnership with FCA conducted a training for 40 (22M/18F) teachers from Zones 4 and 5 respectively with an aim of equipping teachers with skills on creating a child safe school environment. Key areas covered included child participation, child rights, child safeguarding, PSEA, child protection referral pathway and child protection case management. The teachers pledged to work closely with child protection partners to address the issues faced by the learners.
 - In Arua and Bidibidi settlements, 1,046 (604F/442M) children including UASC were supported with case-by-case material assistance such as scholastic material, sleeping mats and bedding, clothes, food items, sanitary kits and soap across the settlements. The beneficiaries were encouraged to appropriately use the received materials.
 - In Nakivale Settlement, 15 (12F/3M) BID panel members attended a capacity building training on the new BIP guidelines and child protection case management.
 - In Kiryandongo Settlement, 2 (both males) South Sudanese refugee youth were awarded scholarships by the United World Colleges (UWC) to pursue higher education at the International School Moshi in Tanzania and UWC Dilijan in Armenia, respectively. UNHCR facilitated their documentation and travel arrangements.
- CHILD PROTECTION CHALLENGES**
- High mobility of cases increases difficulties in tracking and follow up of individual child protection cases.
 - 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 district level.
 - High levels of abandonment of children in settlements by mothers who cross back to South Sudan and/or remarry has contributed to minors missing food/cash assistance and school dropout.
 - Limited targeted support to out-of-school adolescents and youth.
- CHILD PROTECTION INTERVENTIONS**
- Strengthening of case management services through 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 at settlements and 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.
- 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

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