

UNHCR Monthly Protection Update

Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)

October 2019

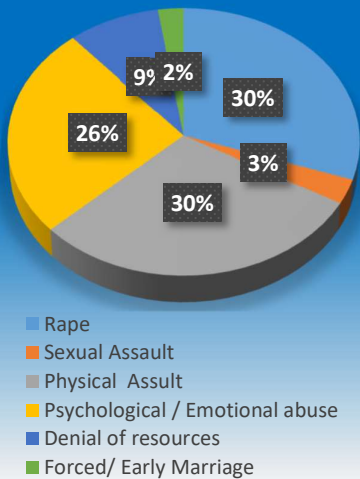


Key Figures

4049

Total incidents Jan - Oct

SGBV incidents Jan - Oct 2019



SGBV interventions January -October 2019

Interventions	Number
Safe House /Shelter	82
Health/Medical Services	945
Legal Assistance services	1474
Psychosocial Services	3875
Safety and Security Services	638
Livelihood Services	692



UNHCR, OPM, Odubi Sub-county and CARE inaugurate the protection house of Imvepi

Key highlights

- 4049 (3482F/567M) SGBV incidents were reported between January and October 2019 in the refugee hosting districts. Incidents of child survivors recorded in the GBVIMS since January stands at 595. This represents 15% of the total statistics. In October alone, 406 (385F/21M) incidents were reported. Some factors contributing to the violence include conflict, poverty resulting to sexual exploitation and abuse and survival sex, forced/ early marriages arranged by family members, long distances to fetch firewood, alcohol abuse among others.
- The Head of Office of UN Women in Adjumani was on mission in Kiryandongo to monitor the Joint Programme on Prevention and Response to GBV with integration of Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights as well as the EU Spotlight Initiative implemented through Refugee Law Project and TPO. A review meeting was held with stakeholders with the aim of ensuring transparency for accountability, adherence to government policies during implementation and promotion of gender equality. The District officials acknowledged the support provided by humanitarians to the host community and advocated for a broader understanding of the host community to include the whole district. The RDC emphasized the need for quarterly reporting to the district as a government directive to facilitate their monitoring.
- On 18th October, UNHCR supported the USAID third-party monitors and Irish Aid missions aimed at assessing WFP and UNHCR refugee programs in Imvepi settlement. The mission focused on food and cash distribution processes, coordination, accountability, protection, feedback and complaints mechanisms, education and SGBV programs. The mission was able to meet the women and girls at Loceta women and girls' centre in zone 1, where the women shared best practices and showcased skills they acquired at the centre including tailoring, bakery, Functional Adult Literacy and VSLA among others. They also highlighted several challenges like insufficient tailoring machines, inadequate materials, long distances to the centre and a need for a semi-permanent structure.
- The inauguration ceremony of the Protection House of Imvepi settlement took place on 22nd of October 2019. CARE handed over the facility to OPM who, in agreement with UNHCR, tasked Child Voice to manage it. UNHCR will organize a training on the SOPs for the Management of Protection Houses that was adopted last year as soon as recruitment of the staff that will oversee the facility.

- As of the end of October, 5,005 women and girls accessed the **Women Centres of Imvepi and Rhino Camp Settlements**. The activities they engaged in include psychosocial group counselling, sensitization on SGBV and referral pathways, knitting, tailoring, bakery, hair dressing, music and drama. In addition, mobile Group psycho-social support sessions were conducted in Arua reaching 856 women. In Bidibidi, activities at the women and girls' safe spaces continued. 18 survivors benefitted from group Psycho-social support sessions, 197 women were involved in VSLA group saving meeting activities, 382 women in the Functional Adult Literacy classes, 154 in knitting, beading and tailoring while 44 took part in bakery. 141 women participated in the EA\$E discussion series and the social workers were able to follow up with 57 survivors who are now coping positively.
 - On 23rd October, UNHCR, OPM, IRC, and CARE jointly conducted an assessment for the handover of the 03 women and girls' centres (WGCs) of Imvepi zone 2 previously transferred to OPM by CARE after phasing out from the settlement. The team met with leaders of the three centres that IRC will continue to work with and assess the items at the facility. Since CARE suspended its activities in Imvepi, only one centre in village 19 has been used by Child Voice International, while others have been dormant. It was therefore necessary to re-habilitate these facilities for the benefit of women and girls in the community. For 2020, UNHCR will promote a joint use of WGCs by different implementing and operational partners.
 - On 24th October, UNHCR attended the graduation ceremony of Child Voice International (CVI) at Lukome vocational and trauma healing centre in Gulu district. A total of 11 girls graduated. UNHCR advised the young mothers to use the skills acquired to benefit their communities, urging them to be exemplary to their peers in the settlement.
 - **Girl shine methodology:** IRC conducted 44 sessions of its Girl Shine methodology to address the barriers to development and education of girls aged 10-19, including violence, listening and risky map, self-esteem, isolation, early marriage and other harmful traditional practices. 970 girls discussed about life skills curriculum healthy relationships, communicating choices, how girls respond to violence, social and emotional skills and stress management. As a result, girls are learning how to control impulses, understand one's feelings and emotions, recognize healthy relationships and deal with challenges.
 - In Bidibidi settlement, 244 girls participated in the Girl shine sessions on topics such as "building a movement of girls", "my life goals", "Healthy and unhealthy relationship", decision making", "being confident and my monthly cycle" have been ongoing in the various groups. The girls also took part in the life skills activities like liquid soap making at the Women and girls centres, turned up for the Girl Shine sessions
 - Engaging Men in Accountable Practices (EMAP): 26 EMAP sessions were conducted in Imvepi and Omugo, reaching 405 (251F/154M) individuals. Sessions targeting women focused on understanding violence against women, girl's safety mapping, ideal community safety planning and while those that targeted men focused on introduction to EMAP, understanding violence and safety plan.
 - 2 EMAP groups were formed in Bidibidi (zone3), one group in the host community and the other for refugees, 50 participants were taken through pre-assessment to gauge the knowledge, belief and attitudes on violence against women, while in zone 5, 35 men turned up for the EMAP sessions on "gender roles in a home" and "understanding gender". 76 (16F/70M) were engaged in SASA! Group discussions to understand how power dynamics relate to violence against women.
- SASA! Methodology**
- On 29th October 2019 in Kiryandongo, a two-day training of enumerators (5) was conducted on SASA phase 2 assessment to enhance data collection using the mobile data application. The survey result information is to provide feedback before the next phase of implementation. The SASA phases are **Start, Awareness, Support and Action**.
 - From 1st to 3rd of October UNHCR SGBV Focal Points attended a training on "**SASA! Together**", organized by UN WOMEN and facilitated by "Raising Voices" in Entebbe. "SASA! Together" is a revised version of "SASA!" that stresses the importance of engaging district local governments and institutions to end violence against women and girls.
 - In Kyaka, Oxfam conducted a 4 days training on the SASA! methodology for 32(18F/14M) protection staff to strengthen their knowledge and skills on the use of the methodology.
 - Door to door SASA community awareness sessions convened in Yangani by community Activist reached out to 108 (70F/38M) PoCs. This aimed at influencing positive behaviour on aspects of power balance in relationships to reduce domestic violence including physical assault which is on an increase as compared to other cases.
- Community participation in SGBV prevention and response**
- A joint awareness campaign was conducted in SWESWE zone in Kyaka II settlement reaching out to 141 (98F/43M) individuals. The campaign sought to strengthen SGBV prevention and rereferral pathways.
 - 11 community awareness sessions were conducted on gender-based violence, child abuse, sexual exploitation and abuse and referral pathways in the settlements of Adjumani and Lamwo reaching 1,002 (511F/491M)

community members. During the sessions, polygamous marriages, alcoholism, religious and cultural beliefs were noted as major causes of abuse. Child protection committees, activist and community leaders promised to strengthen monitoring and timely reporting of cases of abuse. The pupils in school pledged to report all forms of violence that happen in and out of school to various partners.

- In Matanda, 03 SGBV dialogues were conducted to raise awareness about SGBV prevention and response. 616 (312M/304F) persons of concern were in attendance.
- 01 awareness raising session reaching 60 (21F/39M) was conducted on SGBV prevention and response in Kiryandongo High Secondary school to strengthen the knowledge of community structures on SGBV prevention, response and the referral pathway. Key topics discussed with the students include concepts of SGBV, forms, root causes and the referral pathway. This activity brings the cumulative annual total of 60 sessions reaching 3,524 (2396F/1128M).
- As of October, 338 awareness and sensitization sessions were conducted in Arua settlements reaching out to 72,528 (37,581F/34,947M) refugees and host communities. The sessions were conducted by partner staff and community structures, including Gender Task Forces, Male Action Groups and SASA! Community Activists. The topics covered include among others effects of early/ forced marriages, misuse of power as a root cause of GBV, dangers of alcoholism, effects of economical violence, importance of girl child education, SEA, Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights, Menstrual Hygiene Management, domestic violence, the impact of alcoholism on the family, referral pathways, HIV as a consequence of SGBV, domestic violence related to cash distribution amongst others.
- On October 1st-3rd, UNHCR participated in the women conference organized by the South Sudanese Refugee Women's Association (SSRWA) in Omugo with the support of CARE. The conference brought together 51 south Sudanese women of different tribes to promote peace and solidarity. The event included experience-sharing as well as training sessions on leadership, community participation, male engagement, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHRs), SGBV response services. These activities fostered a sense of unity and empowered them to be agents of positive change in their families and communities.
- In Bidibidi settlement, 5,871 (3,665F/2,206M) community members were engaged in SGBV prevention information, outreach and awareness sessions with key messages on teenage pregnancy and early marriage, Alcoholism, SGBV categories, causes, consequences and use of the referral pathway. Additionally, 540 community members participated in the teenage pregnancy campaigns conducted at Ayivu primary school in Zone5, and approximately 300 participants in zone 2. Further, 15 (8F/7M) community activists participated in the monthly meeting organised to

discuss actions against the increasing number of physical assault cases in Yangani cluster and one of the action points agreed upon was to intensify GBV campaigns against violence against women in the community.

Capacity development

- On 28th and 30th October, UNHCR facilitated on PSEA in a four-day training organized by Mercy Cops in partnership with Gulu Agricultural Development company (GADC). The training was attended by 88 (09F/79) lead farmers and Agro agents in Ofua zone Rhino camp refugee settlement. The training aimed at addressing gender dynamics in agriculture and improved livelihoods of PoCs. Each of the above lead farmers and agro-agents supervises 30 farmers at community level and they have been empowered in terms of selection of farmers, capacity building and marketing of farmer's products; it was therefore key to take them through PSEA.
- A 4 days training was conducted in Bidibidi from 29 October to 1st November for Social workers and response officers on the GBVIMS+/ Primero with the participation of 20. The Primero App version is a case management tool that will quicken data collection, submission and compilation process as well as ensure that step by step case management procedures are followed. The roll out of Primero to start in November.
- ARC in partnership with TPO facilitated a 5 days training on SGBV prevention and response in emergency for the duty bearers within Yumbe and Arua settlements/district. 29 (7F/22M) duty bearers including Community development Officers, Police Officers, Refugee Welfare Council (RWC) Chairpersons, Parish Chiefs and Gombolola Internal Security Officers (GISO) participated in the training.
- 245 (129F, 116M) school-based club members engaged in 02 SGBV capacity building sessions in Paluda SS and Green Starts clubs in Adjumani. The sessions capacitated students to reach out to others through circles of influence to prevent and respond to SGBV related issues among youth in and out of school. While 205 (120F/85M) learners from New Hope Anti SGBV (Awich P/S) and World View Anti SGBV club held a debate on the motion "Violence Creates More Problems Than Its Solves" pupils participated.

Coordination

- On October 8th, UNHCR and UNFPA held a meeting with the IRC field coordinator in Imvepi, to monitor the implementation of IRC projects with both UN Agencies. The joint review confirmed that there is currently no duplication in UNHCR and UNFPA interventions. During the meeting, additional complementary opportunities were identified, i.e under the Spotlight Initiative UNFPA has budget for printing of materials which can be used to produce SASA! Toolkit for both Rhino camp and Imvepi settlement.

- UNHCR in partnership with CARE and ARC organized and facilitated a 1-day stakeholder's meeting involving 40 participants including Yumbe district and sub-county leaders, police, health practitioners, local council leaders and protection partners to discuss operation of protection houses in Yumbe. This enabled the review of the protection house SOP and discussions of the functionality of the three protection houses (1 at the sub-county, 1 within the settlement and 1 in town council). Issue of contention was whether suicide cases/survivors be admitted in the protection house or first managed by police given that it's a criminal offence. More discussion and advocacy was made at a follow up district coordination meeting to enable stakeholders understand factors that drive individuals especially refugees to suicide and focus on mechanisms for support but not punishment.
- On 29th October, UNHCR attended Arua district GBV network meeting at the office of the District Community Development officer (DCDO) to plan for the launch of GBV working documents for the district i.e. the local action plan against GBV, alcohol control ordinance and the national policy and action plan for GBV that will be localized. Others in attendance were Arua DLG, Reproductive Health Uganda, religious leaders from the Christian and Muslim community, cultural leaders, residence district commissioner, AMPCAN, Child Development Center.

Challenges

- Underreporting of SGBV cases is a key concern due to numerous factors including stigma, shame, family reaction and dissolution, perception of SGBV as a private matter, lack of confidence in reporting channels. Most survivors remain silent due to fear of reprisals and/or mistrust on getting supported if reported.
 - Limited access to necessities including enough hygiene kits leads to negative coping strategies that increase the risk of SGBV.
 - Access to justice for SGBV survivors is still a gap with inadequate knowledge and support for legal processes, logistical support to police for timely case management support and rejection of medical examination (PF3 filled) by non-governmental health facilities. This is exacerbated by the lack of understanding of Host Country Laws by survivors who perceive the style of justice as non-responsive to their needs.
 - SGBV and other critical protection cases has been noted particularly in South West.
- Application of the SASA! Approach and the Zero Tolerance Village Alliance (ZTVA) to reduce the risk of SGBV in the settlements.
 - In the Urban, UNHCR and InterAid Uganda continue to contribute to SGBV prevention and response through a multi sectoral strategy. However, stronger collaboration is required with some organizations such as JRS, RLP, CEDOVIP, ACTV and ActionAid Uganda that provide services linked to SGBV in Kampala with their own funding.
 - Refresher SGBV/GBV IMS training for the partner staff in the different locations are planned for enhanced SGBV data management.
 - Awareness raising and advocacy within communities to address under-reporting of GBV and community responsibilities towards SGBV prevention and response.
 - Training and capacity building of community-based committees/ groups implementing SGBV initiatives in community.
 - Protection of refugees from sexual exploitation and abuse through intensifying community mobilization and sensitization.
 - Improving outreach to refugees, including through mobile activities to ensure identification and safe referral of SGBV survivors and those at risk
 - Strengthening key partnerships with UN agencies, NGOs, Government, and local communities to reinforce SGBV prevention, response and coordination mechanism.
 - Promoting engagement of men and boys in SGBV prevention and response.
 - SGBV prevention and response activities are pursued in close cooperation with UN agencies, NGO partners and the Government of Uganda. UNHCR works to improve access to quality services in SGBV prevention and response, including:
 - Providing safe environments for women and girls through mass communication, community mobilization, and establishment of Women Resource Centres as well as listening and counselling centres.
 - Strengthening existing specialized services for SGBV survivors such as psychosocial, medical and legal services and support survivors to the same, adopting a survivor centred approach particularly intensifying psychosocial interventions for IPV (Intimate Partner Violence) survivors who may fall vulnerable to a variety of mental health issues and remain hidden.

Strategy

- Using integrated programming to mainstream SGBV prevention and response into all sectors, in particular; shelter, WASH and child protection.

UNHCR implementing partners

Government of Uganda, Humanitarian Initiative Just Relief Aid (HIJRA), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Lutheran World Federation (LWF), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Humanitarian Assistance and Development Services (HADS), CARE International Care and Assistance for Forced Migrants (CAFOMI) and American Refugee Council (ARC), Inter Aid Uganda (IAU)

Contact: Mildred Ouma (oumam@unhcr.org)