

Uganda Emergency Update

Covering Congolese and South Sudanese Emergency

22 October 2013

For internal and external distribution

Main Highlights

- In Bundibugyo District, the 11th convoy from Bubukwanga transit centre to Kyangwali refugee settlement took place on 17 October and transported 306 individuals in 94 households.
- UNHCR supporter and internationally renowned Swedish author Henning Mankell paid a visit to Rwamwanja and Nakivale settlements and Nyakabande transit centre (TC) in the southwest from 14 - 19 October.
- In West Nile, UNHCR and partners carried out a joint profiling, registration and medical screening exercise at Dzaipi TC and Ocea reception centre.



UNHCR supporter, Henning Mankell, talks with 12-year-old Aron and his mother Barengayabn Liberata. After being separated in the DRC, the two refugees were reunited in Rwamwanja settlement. ©UNHCR/L.Beck

Regional dynamics:

Ms Mary Robinson, Special Envoy of UNSG for the Great Lakes, briefed the UN Security Council on 21 October on the progress of the Framework of Hope (PSC framework).

Despite reaching consensus on 8 of 12 articles under discussion, peace talks between M23 rebels and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) government were once again suspended on 21 October. Congolese government spokesman Lambert Mende said the talks had been suspended because of disagreement over the extent of an amnesty for the M23 rebels and their integration into the national army, the FARDC.

Backed by the international community, DR Congo's government is refusing to give amnesty to about 80 M23 leaders and to enlist them into military ranks. The talks

have been held in a stop-start fashion since December 2012 with this latest round recommencing in September after pressure from regional African leaders.

In the interim, small-scale confrontations continued between FARDC and M23, on 15 October FARDC attacked a position of M23 close to Goma, and on 18 October a UN helicopter was shot at by M23.

Preparedness & Response:

The Office of the Prime Minister and UNHCR are coordinating the maintenance of Bubukwanga transit centre (TC), Nyakabande TC, Matanda TC, Dzaipi TC and Ocea reception centre (RC) with partner support.

Contingency Planning: The Contingency Plan for the Congolese refugee influx is in place with the worst-case scenario of 150,000 refugees. Currently the planning scenario and figures are being again reviewed based on new developments in the DRC. The Contingency Plan of refugee influx from South Sudan is also in place covering a scenario of 10,000 new arrivals and 30,000 new arrivals.

Overall Statistics:

Congolese influx: In Bubukwanga TC, the **current population** following adjustments of spontaneous departure is **2,830 individuals** in **1,767 households**. Biometric registration continues to ensure all TC residents are registered. The **cumulative total of assisted refugees at the TC is 29,086 individuals**. One new birth was recorded during the reporting period.

Nyakabande TC continues to receive new arrivals from eastern DRC with the current population at **326** refugees with 154 refugees registered during the reporting period. The current population in Rwamwanja is **48,718**. Maximum capacity for the settlement is estimated at 50-55,000 individuals.

South Sudanese influx: In West Nile, there are 276 individuals (69 families) at Dzaipi TC and 757 individuals (170 families) at Ocea RC. The cumulative number of new arrivals since **2012** is **8,256** persons, of which **5,033** arrived in 2013. The majority of arrivals are from Jonglei State in South Sudan.

Transfer to the settlements: The 11th convoy from Bubukwanga TC to Kyangwali refugee settlement took place on 17 October and transported 306 individuals in 94 households. A total of **11,198 individuals** in **3,077 households** have been transferred to the settlement since relocations began on 14 August. The next convoy movement is expected to take place on 24 October.

There were no relocations from Nyakabande TC to Rwamwanja during the last week.

Congolese Emergency:



Congolese refugee children use a recently installed water station at the Child Friendly Space in Bubukwanga transit centre. ©UNHCR/A.Ndungu

**Protection
Issues:**

Border monitoring: The general security situation was calm throughout the district and border areas. A few cases of petty theft were reported within Nyakabande TC.

Land issues in Kyangwali settlement: The OPM team that will verify nationals' land claims in Kyangwali settlement, notably the Bukinda area, will be arriving shortly. The cases will be reviewed to determine whether certain individuals hold genuine title to the land.

Protection: In Kyangwali, UNHCR staff, with inputs from partners, are drafting a protection strategy encompassing justice, peaceful coexistence of refugees and host community, SGBV prevention and response, child protection, and information sharing.

Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs): In Kyangwali, after the recent convoy arrival UNHCR identified PSNs in order to prioritize them for shelter construction assistance.

In Nyakabande TC, 24 PSNs were identified; they included elderly, UAMs, separated children, GBV cases, persons with disabilities, expectant mothers and child mothers. They were supported with relief items, accommodation and counselling services.

In Rwamwanja, 23 PSNs (16 females, 7 males) were screened after the arrival of the 58th convoy. Presently nine houses are under construction for PSNs.

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV): In Bubukwanga TC, LWF organized a sensitization meeting of people with disabilities to improve their knowledge of SGBV related issues and encourage them to report incidents.

In Kentome, Kyangwali, AAH-U carried out a SGBV sensitisation session for single mothers and youths with 150 participants. Issues covered included the responsibility of parents in the prevention of SGBV, the importance of reporting cases, and the legal process for reporting children's issues. ARC has reported that GBV incidents are on the rise and encouraged GBV actors to carry out further sensitisation.

In Nyakabande TC, four SGBV cases were identified and provided support. A general sensitization targeting men, women and adolescents was conducted for 122 participants. URCS/ACORD conducted SGBV focus group discussions targeting women with 52 participants and it was learned that women at the TC frequently face sexual advances from refugee men. As a result a SGBV focus group discussion targeting men is being organized.

In Rwamwanja, a sensitisation meeting was held with 64 people to create awareness of the negative impact of GBV and the positive impact of non-violence, while GBV task force discussions brought together 75 members. As well, 126 t-shirts and 55 bags were distributed to GBV task forces and youth groups. They are part of the information, education and communication (IEC) materials that help disseminate information on GBV prevention and response. In addition, 100 gum boots were given to task force members to improve their access to the community.

Child Protection: In Bubukwanga TC, URCS reported that three children were abandoned and through tracing learned their parents returned to Kamango town in DRC. The children have been enrolled in the child friendly centres and are being taken care of by the zone leader for the moment. Meanwhile, a joint separated children verification exercise is being carried out by UNHCR and SCiU to enable service providers to conduct relevant follow up.

In Nyakabande TC, five unaccompanied minors (UAMs) were registered, two are being fostered by caregivers identified with the support of URCS. Another five separated children were identified with the support of SCiU, and tracing of their parents has begun. A discussion session for girls and boys aged 12-18 was conducted. It covered topics such as puberty, risky behaviour, forms of abuse, referral mechanisms and available services. To build the capacity of partners, child protection stakeholders met to share information from the child protection workshop that was recently held in Mbarara.

**Sectoral
Highlights:**

In Rwamwanja, seven UAMs were supported with blankets and mats. There are currently 24 UAMs and separated children in two shelters at the settlement. Home visits were conducted to three families taking care of identified children at risk.

Family reunification: In Nyakabande TC, one UAM was reunited with relatives at the TC. While in Rwamwanja 18 family (internal) reunifications were conducted.

Food: In Bubukwanga TC, refugees receive three hot meals a day as provided by WFP food rations. Newly arriving refugees receive a temporary coupon from URCS to ensure they receive meals as they proceed with biometric registration. However, UNHCR has received reports of lunch and supper being served at the same time and the issue has been raised with URCS, zone leaders and refugees to ensure that three hot meals continue to be served daily.

In Nyakabande TC, three communal kitchens serve three hot meals to refugees daily with refugees fully participating in meal preparations. UNHCR provides support with kitchen management, fuel / wood and cooking utensils.

In the settlements, newly arrived refugees receive hot meals at the reception centre and when relocating to their land plots they receive a WFP food package through Samaritan's Purse.

Shelter & Site Planning: In Nyakabande TC, there are 92 family tents, 88 of which are occupied and there are eight communal shelters for 200-300 refugees (none of which are occupied). There are five family tents for UAMs (two for girls, three for boys), two tents for disabled persons and two tents for elderly persons.

Non-Food Items (NFIs): In Nyakabande TC, blankets, mats, cups, plates and soap were distributed to new arrivals. In Rwamwanja, 747 individuals from the recently arrived convoy received jerry cans, soap, basins, plastic sheeting, hoes and pangas.

Health/Nutrition: At the Bubukwanga Health Centre (HC), 36 staff were immunized with Hepatitis B vaccine. As well, a door-to-door polio campaign was conducted with 984 children being immunized.

In Kyangwali, MSF-F has reported a change in the population accessing the health services with many more nationals from Bukinda attending the centre. At Marembo health post, AAH-U provided health education to 500 individuals on hygiene and sanitation, immunization, family planning, the importance of antenatal and postnatal care, grown monitoring and breast feeding, and the prevention of malaria. The health post received 431 consultations (138 were children under 5 years of age).

Also in Kyangwali, MSF-F will be providing mobile health services in Mukunyu, and as the number of refugees willing to move to the TC decreases, it will phase out the out-patient department at the reception centre and focus on mobile clinics.

In Rwamwanja, 3,305 out-patient consultations were conducted, while there were 167 in-patient admissions and 18 referrals to Fort Portal hospital. For the last three weeks there has been a stock out of essential drugs. Nutrition levels stood at: Severe Acute Malnutrition 3.75% and Global Acute Malnutrition at 1.07%.

In Nyakabande TC, 31 children were enrolled in supplementary or therapeutic feeding programmes. At the Health Centre II, 580 out-patient consultations were held, 30% of which were for refugees. Six patients were referred to Kisoro hospital. The main causes of morbidity are respiratory tract infections, watery diarrhoea, skin infections and malaria.

Reproductive Health: In Kentome, Kyangwali, AAH-U carried out a sensitization session on personal hygiene and menstrual health for women and girls of reproductive age. As well, MSF-F trained traditional birth attendants on triage on 16 October.

In Nyakabande TC, a focus group discussion was held with 50 women to encourage expectant mothers to use antenatal services, and discuss family planning, personal hygiene and sanitation and use of sanitary pads. Twenty-three women of reproductive age were supported with sanitary materials. In addition, two pregnant mothers were mapped by ACORD and referred for antenatal care, and a mother with a one-month-old child was supported with a dignity kit.

In Rwamwanja, 182 pregnant mothers accessed antenatal care services and 37 mothers were assisted in delivering at the health facility. Thirteen mothers were referred for emergency obstetrical care to the hospital while 40 mothers were enrolled in the Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission programme. As well, 186 women who arrived on a recent convoy received sanitary pads, underwear and soap.



A woman and her child stand outside a tent at Nyakabande transit centre located close to the border with DRC in southwest Uganda. ©UNHCR/L.Beck

HIV/AIDS: In Rwamwanja, a peer-to-peer education and HIV/AIDS training for 63 participants from two youth groups was organized. Owing to lack of testing kits no screening was done for HIV this week. One new patient was enrolled on Antiretroviral Therapy. More than 9,000 condoms were distributed in the settlement.

Immunisation: In Rwamwanja, 86 children aged 0-4 years were given their first shot of BCG, Polio, DPT and Measles, while 60 received their second and 26 received their third. In Nyakabande TC, MTI immunized 123 children.

Education: Four Congolese refugee children who are to sit their exams in Bundibugyo were verified by OPM / UNHCR and the District Inspector of Schools.

In Kyangwali, a total of 1,323 pupils have registered within Marembo Primary School, which at present has only four classrooms. AAH-U is constructing a new four classroom block in an effort to decongest the current classrooms. In addition, SCiU is preparing the ground to build a learning centre for Early Childhood Education and Child Friendly Spaces. Additional learning centre structures are being prepared for Marembo B and C, and SCiU is assessing the needs for the new site of Mukunyu.

In Rwamwanja, all schools underwent a health inspection.

Water: At Bubukwanga TC, chlorinated water was supplied by the gravity flow system with an estimated 20 litres per person per day. Installation of a chlorine dozer and the solar power system is in progress, while fencing around the water storage tanks was completed. Free residual chlorine ranges between 0.3 to 0.5 mg/l at tap stands and 0.1 to 0.3 mg/l at the household level (OXFAM/ UNICEF).

In Kyangwali, a newly installed pipe from the pump station now services Kagoma reception centre reducing the amount of water to be trucked in. However, current sources remain insufficient for the resident population. UNICEF is on the ground with a hydrologist to identify 10 new borehole sites for the new refugee villages.

In Rwamwanja, six shallow wells constructed by IOM were completed and will soon be tested, while three boreholes were repaired.

Hygiene & Sanitation: In Bubukwanga TC, Oxfam completed 48 latrine stances and 48 bath shelters. The latrine / person ratio is 1:12 and bath shelter / person ratio is 1:9. The TC presently has 256 latrines and 330 bath shelters.

Desludging of TC latrines and emptying at the temporary lagoon continues through UNHCR, while UNICEF is treating sludge at the site. Work carried out by the district authorities, Concern, SC and UNHCR on the lining of the permanent lagoon is 60% complete. Cleaning and maintenance of latrines and bath shelters by URCS continues, and a pit is being dug for solid waste.

Also at Bubukwanga TC, on 15 October Public Health Promoters led the Global Hand Washing Day activities with a special focus on children. Music, drama and dance performance were put on by the team to demonstrate the importance of washing hands with soap (OXFAM, LWF, SCI, WV, URCS, UNHCR).

Health promoters also monitored use of mosquito nets and proper washing habits. A WASH gap analysis was conducted using focal group at the World Vision Child Friendly Space with 72 individuals participating. Individuals expressed their satisfaction with the water provided (quality and quantity) and were happy with the sanitation situation at the transit centre.

In Kyangwali, AAH-U distributed 29 sets of hand washing facilities (containing a 60litre jerry can and tap, a stand and a bucket) to eight schools in the settlement, while WHH distributed sanitation kits in Marembo.

In Nyakabande TC, nine communal shelters were fumigated and 86 mobilets cleaned. In Rwamwanja, 28 hygiene promoters attended a 5-day refresher training course.

Livelihoods: In Kyangwali, WHH has completed the distribution of agricultural seeds and tools in Kitoro, Kentome and Marembo.

Environment: In Kyangwali, AAH-U training of trainers for the construction of energy saving stoves is on-going, this is a particularly important undertaking given the scarcity of firewood.

Infrastructure: In Bubukwanga TC, 95% of the access road has had marram spread on it and is being compacted. Drainage culverts are also being installed. A DRC-DDG engineer is supervising the UNHCR-funded road works.

In Kyangwali, In Marembo, Kyangwali, AAH-U has distributed 670 UNHCR shelter construction poles to 90 households, with each household receiving between 6 and 10 poles, depending on family size.

Also in Kyangwali, 75.2 kilometres of planned and upgrading road works, 12.9 kilometres of new roads have been laid; road width has been increased on 29.2 kilometres; 31.8 kilometres have been graded, shaped and compacted; 20.4 kilometres of road gravelled; and three lines of culverts installed.



Recently arrived asylum seekers from South Sudan rest in the shade at in Arua District's Rhino Camp settlement in northern Uganda.
©UNHCR/M.Sibiloni

**Protection
Issues:**

A joint profiling, registration and medical screening exercise of refugees and asylum seekers was conducted together by UNHCR, OPM DLG at Dzaipi TC (Adjumani) and Ocea RC (Arua).

Child protection: Best Interest Assessments were conducted for five separated children in Olua clusters; the children are being fostered by distant relatives.

SGBV: Eleven OPM and UNHCR staff attended a two-day Gender Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) training workshop. Participants were trained on the use of this data collection tool which is scheduled for implementation in the coming weeks.

**Sectoral
Highlights:**

Relocations: 146 individual refugees in 35 families were relocated to individual plots in Siripi and allocated plots by OPM.

Food: A joint OPM / WFP / UNHCR sensitization on cash transfer for food was conducted in Adjumani settlement. The majority of refugees have chosen to receive food in kind while a few are willing to receive cash.

NFIs: Core relief items were provided to 93 asylum seekers in Adjumani including shelter materials, cooking utensils, mosquito nets, sanitary pads, hoes, machete, sickles and jerry cans and sleeping mats, While in Arua the non-replenishment of stock prevented NFI distribution to newly arrived asylum seekers.

**Coordination
Meetings:**

Coordination meetings for Bubukwanga TC take place on Tuesday and Thursday at 4 pm for partners to discuss key issues, plans and gaps. Weekly sectoral coordination meetings are also held, including WASH, SGBV, Community Services and Child Protection, and Health.

A Community Services meeting takes place every Tuesday at 10am. In addition, there are zone meetings with refugees every Friday at 9.30am. Partners have also agreed to have a meeting with refugee leaders every Thursday at 9.30am.

Kyangwali coordination meetings take place on Wednesdays at 4pm and on an ad hoc basis as required at the UNHCR payote. As well, WASH meeting are scheduled on Fridays at 10am and Child Protection/SGBV meetings on Wednesday at 11am.

In Kampala, the monthly interagency meeting takes place on the first Tuesday of the month. The next meetings are on 5 November and 3 December, at 10am at UNHCR Kampala.

**Working in
Partnership:**

OPM / UNHCR are being supported by partners on the ground:

Bundibugyo District:

Governmental partners: Bundibugyo District Local Government (DLG) authorities and various technical departments, the Uganda Police Force (UPF), and the Uganda Prisons Unit.

Humanitarian partners include: Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development (ACORD), Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), African Initiative for Relief and Development (AIRD), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Emesco Development Foundation, Global Refuge International (GRI), Humedica, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Lutheran World Federation (LWF), Malteser, Medical Teams International (MTI), International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Marie Stopes Uganda (MSU), Oxfam, Pentecostal Church of Uganda/fida International (PCU/fida), Save the Children in Uganda (SCIU), UNFPA, UNICEF, Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS), WFP, World Harvest Mission (WHM), World Vision (WV) and WHO.

Kyangwali Settlement and the movement:

Governmental partners: Hoima DLG authorities and various technical departments and the Uganda Police Force.

Humanitarian partners: Action Africa Help Uganda (AAH-U), ADRA/ FAO, AIRD, American Refugee Council (ARC), ICRC, IOM, PCU/fida, Finnish Refugee Council (FRC), Médecins Sans Frontières France (MSF-F), Samaritan's Purse (SP), SCIU, UNFPA, UNICEF, URCS, Welthungerhilfe (WHH), WHO and WFP.

Rwamwanja settlement, Nyakabande TC and Matanda TC:

Government partners: OPM, Kisoro, Kanungu and Kyenjojo DLG authorities and various technical departments.

Humanitarian partners: ACORD, ADRA, AHA, AIRD, FAO, Feed the Hungry, GOAL Uganda (GOAL), HIJRA, ICRC, LWF, MTI, IOM, PCU/fida, SP, SCIU, UNFPA, UNICEF, URCS, Water Missions, WFP, WHO, Windle Trust Uganda (WTU).

West Nile:

Governmental partners: OPM, Adjumani and Arua DLG authorities and various technical departments.

Humanitarian partners: AAH-U, AIRD, DRC, ICRC, URCS and WFP.

Missions:

UNHCR high-profile supporter and well-known Swedish writer Henning Mankell visited Rwamwanja and Nakivale settlements and Nyakabande transit centre from 14-19 October. Mr Mankell was accompanied by UNHCR staff members from the London and Sweden Private Sector Fundraising units and was here on a fundraising and familiarisation mission.