



## Key Figures

**726,780**

**Registered Refugee children**

**63%**

**Percentage of children amongst refugee population as of October 2018**

**49,548**

**Number of unaccompanied or separated children (UASC)**

**73%**

**Percentage of Children under 12 years**

**27%**

**Percentage of Adolescents and Youth**

## UNHCR Child Protection Thematic Report October 2018

Efforts by Child Protection actors to strengthen prevention and response services have continued through enhancement of the systems that identify and refer children with protection, providing such children with specialise services including psychosocial services, alternative care and family tracing and reunification. Various preventative services including awareness raising through community dialogue sessions are ongoing. At national level efforts are being made to link the refugee response with the national child protection systems through collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development and the National Child Protection Working Group.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- On 11<sup>th</sup> October, various settlements across the Uganda Operation joined the rest of the world in celebrating the International Day of the Girl Child. The main aims of the day are to promote girl's empowerment and fulfilment of their human rights while also highlighting the challenges that girls all over the world face. With this year's theme being "With her: A skilled Girl Force, settlements including Bidibidi, Oruchinga, Kiryandongo etc. conducted several activities that involved hundreds of girls, and includes children's parliament forums, debates, Music Dance and Drama, games and sports etc. Issues discussed also included the increase school drop-out rates among girls, the lack of parental support. Participants called for increased participation of Girls and sensitization of parents and caregivers on the rights of the girl-child.
- UNHCR hosted a two-day successful workshop on the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018 in Kampala, organized by the Child Protection Sub-Working Group and led by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MoLGSD), and involved many actors including officials from Education, the OPM, and refugee child protection agencies. The workshop aimed at reviewing the Refugee Child Protection Case Management SOP, and aligning it with the National Case Management Tools. The workshop marked the final review process which had begun with all child

protection agencies reviewing the Child Protection Case Management SOP in preparation for the roll-out of the proGres v4 Child Protection Module. The workshop was critical in ensuring the engagement of the MoLGSD in child protection in the refugee response, and to align our SOPs with the national case management tools.

- Several capacity building interventions took place across the operation. In Bidibidi, UNHCR facilitated a Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) training for 160 child protection committee members from zone 2 and 75 staffs to equip them with knowledge and skills in PSEA, and 2 BID trainings for 96 (52M, 46F) child protection staffs as part of the Best Interest Procedure (BIP) activities for general improvement in the child protection individual case management. Several trainings targeting various audiences including case workers, and community groups on a wide range of subjects including case management, alternative care, the new BIP Guidelines, parenting skills took place in Kiryandongo, Kwangwali, Arua, and settlements in the South-West.
- Various life skills events were organised for children, adolescents and youths in several locations in the Operation. In Kwangwali in the Mid-west, modular life skills trainings for both in and out of school adolescents and youths including child mothers, fathers and teenage pregnant girls, totalling 665 were trained. Similarly, 33 adolescents were engaged in Peer to peer sessions. A total of 749 adolescents and youths also participated in a forum in Omugo where they focussed on Adolescents as a discussion point. They shared their views and created awareness on the challenges they face as adolescents and an action plan was developed to guide the community members on key activities to engage with the adolescents.
- Awareness raising activities were carried out in several settlements targeting varied audiences. In Nakivale, 3 awareness sessions were conducted with parents on parenting skills, children’s rights and responses to SGBV cases in the community. 147 individuals participated in the activity. Another session was also conducted with children, focusing on

importance of school retention, participating in their own protection etc. In Imvepi, meetings were conducted with 250 parents on positive parenting, family conflict management and for resource mobilization for ECD/CFS centers in order to fill the gaps from school feeding program, lack of support of the fostered children etc.

### Key Achievements:

Children receiving case management services:	26,424
Best Interests Assessments conducted	1,965
Children in foster care:	6,465
Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) reunified with parents or customary caregivers:	78
Total # of functional Child Friendly Spaces (CFSs):	143
Average monthly attendance of children in child-friendly activities:	234.986
Total number of functional Child Protection Coordination Working Group:	13
Number of Adolescents participating in targeted programmes:	5,678

### CHILD PROTECTION NEEDS

- Strengthen targeted support for out-of-school adolescents and youth including increasing their access to vocational skills training, livelihood support to assist them develop their **potential for their well-being**.
- Increase support to foster families by linking them to livelihood/income generating programmes.
- Construction of CFSs and ECDs in new settlements and equipping of existing CFS and ECD facilities in old Settlements. Further strengthen the capacity of Caregivers and facilitators in CFS and ECD facilities
- Increase access to formal education (secondary & tertiary) for children with special needs (including Children with Disabilities (CWDs))

through provision of funds, scholastic materials and assistive devices.

- Material assistance for children at risk and other children in foster families

### CHILD PROTECTION CHALLENGES

- Limited access to income generating activities and/or vocational training schools for adolescents and youths which further predisposes them to protection risks.
- Inadequate case workers to ensure timely and quality follow-ups, resulting in children at risk (including UASC) not receiving monitoring/home visits after initial identification, assessment and/or placement in foster-care arrangement.
- Limited support for foster parents often leading to neglect of children under their care.
- Inadequate access to education due to inadequate school infrastructure in new settlements.
- Lack of support and training /mentoring for community-based child protection groups, undermining their effectiveness in monitoring of children and reporting on cases of abuse against children.
- Inadequate or the lack of standardized incentives for CPCs which affects mobilization and proper dissemination of CP information in the community.
- Although birth notifications are issued at health centres in all settlements, birth certificate issuance is not automatic, challenges ranges from the lack of adequate capacity of NIRA district offices resulting to delays in processing the Birth Certificate.

### CHILD PROTECTION INTERVENTIONS

- Strengthening of case management services through training and capacity development,

enhanced identification, prioritization and referral of children at risk

- Strengthening Child protection Coordination through regular meetings of Child Protection Sub-Working Groups in the settlements and at national level.
- 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 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 unaccompanied and separated children through collaboration with the ICRC and the Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS)
- Providing children with spaces for playing, socializing and build resilience, through strengthening CFSs and Early Childhood Development Centers (ECDs) 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 on child protect



*Youth participants pose for a photo upon receipt of 04 days youth consultative workshop attendance certificates issued after the conference session.*

### CHILD PROTECTION PARTNERS AND RESOURCES

**Implementing Partners:** DRC, LWF, Hijra; WVI, AAH, TPO; SCI; InterAid Uganda, HADs

**Operational Partners:** UNICEF; SCI, WVI, Plan, ASVI; URCS; War Child Canada; War Child Holland; Tutapona; CAFOMI

Workforce dedicated to child protection: **367**

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