

## UNHCR UGANDA WEEKLY UPDATE

Date: 19 November 2020

### COVID-19 SITUATION IN UGANDA

New COVID-19 cases	342
Current admitted cases	599
Cumulative COVID-19 cases	16,563
Cumulative recoveries	8,394
New deaths	7
Cumulative deaths (nationwide)	150
COVID-19 positive cases (refugees)	221
Recoveries (refugees)	166
Cumulative COVID-19 refugee deaths	5
Cumulative COVID-19 cases (Humanitarian workers)	162

Source: Ministry of Health, as of 18 November 2020

### SECURITY

As a result of the arrest of the National Unity Platform's (NUP) Presidential Candidate, Hon. Robert Kyagulanyi Ssentamu, in Luuka District on 18 November 2020, spontaneous demonstrations took place on the streets of Kampala, its suburbs and some districts in East, Central and Northern Uganda. Burning car-tyres were used to block roads; posters of presidential candidates were pulled and cars, especially those with government number-plates were attacked. It is said that the people behind the demonstrations were supporters of the NUP. The security forces responded to the situation with tear gas and live bullets in the air and at civilians, to disperse the demonstrators, leaving scores injured and others arrested.

Cases of civil unrest were also reported to have continued in different parts of Kampala on 19 November 2020, with the police having run ins with demonstrators. The security situation was reported to be relatively calm in other areas of the country.

### NEW DEVELOPMENT AND IMPACT ON THE REFUGEE OPERATION IN UGANDA

On 17 November 2020, Ms. Mahoua Parums, the Deputy Representative of UNHCR Uganda, and Mr. Gilbert Assi, the VIVO Energy Managing Director, officiated at the handover ceremony of a 50,000 litre fuel tank to UNHCR in Nakivale refugee settlement. The event was also attended by other important dignitaries including refugee leaders. Ms. Parums thanked VIVO Energy for the good partnership with UNHCR, and asked AIRD, the implementing partner, to manage the fuel station well and ensure accountability and improved service delivery to persons of concern.

The Head of Cooperation from the Embassy of Belgium to Uganda and South Sudan, visited UNHCR Field Office in Kyaka II on 16 November 2020. The mission paid a courtesy call at OPM and UNHCR. They visited the Mukondo Women Centre where mask production is taking place, as well as Mukondo Primary School.

### KAMPALA

#### The Urban Cash Assistance disbursement

This modality has to date reached 23,951 (57 percent) households, constituting 57,168 (71 percent) persons of concern, through Airtel mobile money and Post bank. The exercise is expected to end by 30 November 2020.

## **Statelessness**

On 13 November 2020, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and UNHCR held a workshop to validate the National Action Plan to Eradicate Statelessness in Uganda. Participants included government ministries, civil society, IOM, and leaders from communities affected by statelessness notably, the Maragoli, Benet and Bakingwe. The final validated document will be distributed to all stakeholders in due course.

## **Tripartite technical working group meeting on voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees**

The meeting was held on 17 November 2020 between UNHCR, the Government of Uganda and Embassy of Burundi. During the meeting, key issues were discussed notably, documentation, logistics, repatriation package and timelines. The team agreed that the first convoy with about 100 Burundi refugees will depart from Uganda by flight in the second week of December 2020. A revised action plan will be shared with all parties.

## **Resettlement**

Since the reopening of the airport, 605 refugees departed or are in their final departure formalities, to travel to Sweden, USA, Norway, Canada and France. A round table discussion on resettlement processes under Covid-19 took place with UNHCR, IOM and the resettlement countries of Canada and Australia, which indicated that, arrival to their countries is extremely restricted and requires an exceptional waiver.

## **Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)**

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign will be taking place from 25 November to 10 December 2020, focusing on global awareness raising on gender-based violence and to mobilize action. This year's Global theme is "Orange the World, Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!" and focuses on the COVID-19 crisis. The Uganda operation is focusing on the thematic areas to prevent, respond and collect. Behavior change social mobilization campaigns will be launched across settlements and reinforce explicit measures so that, services for survivors of GBV are maintained as essential during COVID-19 restrictions. The programs will include ensuring a range of adequate criminal justice responses and enhanced data collection for improvement of GBV services and programmes, always ensuring survivor-centered and ethical safety standards.

## **Mental Health Day Celebration**

UNHCR participated in the planning and the scientific commemoration of the 2020 World Mental Health Day (WMHD) with Ministry of Health as lead and key Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) partners. The 2020 theme is "Greater Investment for Community Mental Health". In addition, from the analysis of the suicides, Parolinya settlement had the highest rate of suicide and was therefore prioritized for the Mental Health GAP training. The training objective is to scale up services for mental, neurological and substance use disorders through training 50 members of a multisector team, to address the gaps in early identification and management.

## **Livelihoods**

The current mask production figures stand at 716,812 (64 percent). Out of this, 473,372 (42 percent) masks have been distributed to Persons of Concern (PoCs). Production is still taking place in Kyangwali, Bidibidi and Nakivale settlements.

## **Energy and Environment**

The Stakeholder Consultations on the Sustainable Energy Response Plan for refugees and host communities commenced on 9 November 2020, led by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development in Kamwenge district. It continued in Rwamwanja, Kyegegwa District Local Government, and Kyaka II settlement. The meetings consulted with district leaders and focal points on energy; utility companies in charge of electricity distribution; humanitarian partners in energy sector; host community leaders; private

companies dealing in solar products; energy saving cookstoves; charcoal sellers and briquette producing groups/companies; as well as the refugee leaders; to gather their challenges with regard to energy, opportunities, strategies and actions to address those challenges.

### **Site Planning and Infrastructure**

During the reporting week, construction of COVID-19 isolation facility at APO Health Center in Yumbe district was completed and facility handed over to the beneficiaries. Construction works included: five blocks of isolation shelters, each with a ten-bed capacity; five blocks of five-stance temporary latrines; one block of two-stance temporary latrine; six blocks of five-stance bath shelters; one block of doffing or changing rooms for medical staff; kitchen and store shelter; 300 meter piped water extension, complete with two tapping points.

The construction works at Kerwa Collection Point in Yumbe district (semi-permanent overnight shelter; five-stance drainable latrine; and fencing works), commenced through site handover and setting out of works. After completion, Kerwa will be able to receive PoCs as per Ministry of Health's guidelines of social distancing.

## **WEST NILE**

### **Adjumani refugee settlements**

#### **Health, Nutrition and COVID-19 Response**

The COVID-19 situation remained a major challenge, especially in Adjumani district. Eleven new cases, all nationals, were reported during the week, bringing the cumulative confirmed COVID-19 cases to 192, comprising 54 refugees and 138 nationals, including 39 health care workers. A cumulative total of 173 recoveries, one death and two escapes had been registered, leaving 16 active cases on treatment. Of the active cases, three are in Nyumanzi non-traditional treatment unit and 13 in home-based care. In Lamwo district, the situation had remained relatively stable with a cumulative total of 99 confirmed cases of which, 98 had already recovered with no death registered.

#### **Rapid Assessment**

In Adjumani, a rapid assessment of approximately 3,039 flood affected refugee households, jointly conducted by UNHCR, OPM, IRC, LWF and RWC between 12 and 13 November 2020, showed that the ongoing rains have raised the underground water table and caused flooding in parts of the settlements thus, damaging several refugee shelters and latrines. In some settlements, latrines collapsed or got filled up with water, forcing their contents to flow to the surface. This increases the risk of outbreaks of water and sanitation related diseases such as cholera, dysentery, typhoid, hepatitis E, among others. To avert a possible cholera outbreak, the District Rapid Response Team (DRRT) has intensified surveillance for acute watery diarrhea and has started repositioning cholera emergency response medicines and supplies, including cholera rapid diagnostic test kits. A meeting was held with OPM, UNHCR and LWF on 17 November 2020, to discuss the findings of the assessment. In the meeting OPM pointed out that, getting extra land to relocate the affected households may not be feasible and therefore, recommended that other alternatives are sought.

#### **Relocation of the Nuers from Palorinya to Palabek Refugee Settlement**

Palabek settlement received the second batch of 193 Nuer refugees in 60 households from Palorinya on 12 November 2020, bringing the cumulative figure to 390 Nuer refugees received in Palabek. The last convoy is expected to arrive on 20 November 2020.

#### **CBI Assessment**

In Palabek, a three-day cash-based intervention assessment on sanitary kits distribution was conducted by UNHCR and LWF in zones 2, 6 and 5B, targeting age groups of ethnic and religious minorities at the

food distribution points. The exercise was to assess the views of refugees on the modality for possible adoption in 2021, as UNHCR plans to use cash modalities for some items in the operation.

### November 2020 Food Distribution Cycle

Food and cash disbursements were made to 84,468 individuals in 14,377 households (Adjumani 71,609 and Lamwo 12,859), and a total of 435 households (Adjumani 333 and Lamwo 102), presented children to collect food. These were assisted since their eligible members are reportedly stuck in South Sudan due to border closure by government. All beneficiaries equally received two pieces of laundry soap, while females in the reproductive age of 10-50 years received a sanitary kit comprised of laundry soap, sanitary pads and underwear.

### Arua/Kiryandongo, Imvepi and Rhino Camp Refugee Settlements

#### Health, Nutrition and COVID-19 Response

A refugee from Kiryandongo tested positive to COVID-19 during the week. Cumulatively, 49 refugees (Kiryandongo 47, Rhino 1 and Imvepi 1) have tested positive, and by 17 November 2020, only 12 cases from Kiryandongo were still receiving treatment under the home based care approach. The rest were successfully treated and discharged.

Ten humanitarian workers (UNHCR Kiryandongo 1, ZOA Rhino 2, DRC 4, IRC 3) tested positive for COVID-19 during the week. Cumulatively, 51 humanitarian workers have tested positive for COVID -19 as broken down in the table below;

Partner	UNHCR	OPM	IRC	WMU	TPO	HADS	DRC	RICE	ACF	WVI	ACAV	ZOA	Total
Number	07	02	18	02	02	01	06	01	01	03	01	07	51

As of 17 November 2020, four confirmed COVID-19 cases were undergoing treatment at the Arua Regional Referral Hospital. In Imvepi settlement, three positive IRC support staff are undergoing treatment at the non-traditional isolation facility at Zone 3 Health Centre, while seven positive ZOA staff are under home care in Rhino Camp settlement. Additionally, 241 (12 refugees and 229 nationals) COVID -19 positive cases (Kiryandongo 166 and Arua 75) are under home care.

The health team and partners, with support of the Village Health Teams (VHTs) and local leaders, followed up 61 alerts (Rhino 8, Imvepi 38, Lobule 11 and Kiryandongo 4). As part of active surveillance, 474 households were visited by the VHTs during the week.

On 16 November 2020, the Ministry of Health started a-four-day annual West Nile health joint review meeting in Koboko district. The meeting is to provide a common platform to review the health sector key performance indicators and targets for the Health Sector Development Plan (HSDP) in the West Nile region, for the financial year 2019/20. In addition, it is to discuss implementation gaps and bottle necks and generate recommendations for performance improvement initiatives for the districts and regional partners.

With support from UNHCR, three psychiatric clinical officers from IRC (Imvepi 2 and Rhino 1), attended a-five-day training facilitated by a psychologist from TPO. The training on MHPSS was held from 9 to 13 November 2020, at Yoro Base in Rhino Camp settlement. The main purpose of the training was to bridge existing gaps in MHPSS in Imvepi and Rhino Camp settlements.

To reduce malaria prevalence, Kiryandongo District Local Government (DLG), with support from Ministry of Health, distributed long lasting insecticide treated mosquito nets in Kiryandongo Settlement from 11 to 14 November 2020, benefiting both refugees and nationals. The total number of beneficiaries will be shared in the report that will be circulated.

From 9 to 13 November 2020, with support from WFP, a one-off emergency nutrition sensitive cash transfer (COVID-19 response CBT) was conducted in Imvepi settlement, to the beneficiaries of Maternal Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN) program. Four thousand, one hundred and ninety-nine (4,199) beneficiaries (mothers) were reached, with each receiving UGX 96,000.

## **Protection**

### **New Arrivals Registration**

Registration/profiling of the 142 new arrivals at Imvepi Reception Centre started during the week. Plans are under way to immediately carry out contactless biometric registration, documentation and relocation of the new arrivals to their plots.

Relatedly, 87 households of 142 individuals (69 female and 73 male) from South Sudan, were received at Imvepi Reception Centre from Goboro Transit Centre. The main reason for flight was ethnic conflict between Dinka and Nuer tribes. Most of them hail from Kuku, Kakwa and Pojulu ethnicities of Keji keji and Yei counties. However, some recyclers were identified among the group and they will be relocated to the settlements where they were registered.

### **Community-Based Protection**

On 11 and 12 November 2020, UNHCR and OPM held a two-day dissemination workshop in Rhino Camp settlement (Yoro Base), on the findings of the 2019 Participatory Assessment (PA) results. In attendance were 88 participants (22 female and 66 male). The assessment focused on obtaining comprehensive understanding of the situation of PoCs and host communities; the problems and protection risks faced; underlying causes; capacities and coping mechanisms to address those problems; and promoting meaningful participation of PoCs in shaping UNHCR's and partners' interventions, to ensure that their programmes are informed by the perspectives of refugees and host communities. It also focused on addressing the priorities and needs of the communities and the communities' capacities to mobilize for effective protection and assistance delivery, as well as to sustain the programmes. The dissemination workshop was attended by both refugee leaders and partners.

### **Support to Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs)**

UNHCR through DRC, supported three PSNs (2 female and 1 male), in Siripi and Ariwa Zones in Rhino Camp settlement with two wheelchairs and one tricycle. This support was aimed at enhancing their mobility and access to services within the settlement. Relatedly, additional support was provided to 21 PSNs (18 female and 3 male) in Eden Zone. The support included sleeping mats, blankets and mosquito nets, aimed at protecting the refugees from the cold weather at night.

## **SGBV**

From 11 to 17 November 2020, UNHCR in collaboration with DRC, SGBV community structures and leaders, documented eight SGBV incidences (2 physical violence, 3 emotional violence, 2 rape, 1 denial of resources), from Imvepi 2, Rhino Camp 4 and Kiryandongo 2. All the survivors were females. The survivors received timely age and gender appropriate case management services ranging from basic counselling, medical and legal services basing on individual needs assessed.

## **General Distribution**

General food and cash distribution took place in Kiryandongo, 26,150 out of 26,306 individuals representing 99.41 percent were served with cash, and 9,914 out of 10,115 representing 98.01 percent received food assistance. Relatedly, the November soap distribution is targeting 69,651 individuals and 22,613 sanitary pads are to be distributed to women of reproductive age (10-50 years).

Cash and food distribution cycles 11 and 12 in Lobule settlement was successfully conducted from 10 to 12 November 2020. Out of a total of 880 households of 5533 individuals targeted for the cash distribution

in Lobule settlement, 876 households of 5519 individuals were served, representing 99.55 percent households and 99.75 percent individuals.

### **Road Rehabilitation**

UNHCR has started the rehabilitation of 13.5 kilometers of the main access road from Enyau Bridge to Yinga Health Centre, through Imvepi Health Centre, Reception Centre and the base Camp. The rehabilitation followed the assessment of road works that was conducted in Imvepi settlement. To date, some of major access roads have been affected by heavy rains and traffic of heavy trucks, delivering services to the refugees.

### **JICA Rice Project**

Two rice processing machines were installed in Eden and Wanyange during the week. The testing will be done after a week due to its vibration, which could damage the installation concrete. The initiative is to help farmers (host and refugees) add value to the rice they produce and get better returns from the sales that would improve on their household livelihoods.

### **Yumbe (Bidibidi Refugee Settlement)**

#### **Health, Nutrition and COVID-19 Response**

The Covid-19 situation in Yumbe remained relatively stable within the reporting week. Three new confirmations of COVID-19 were made from OPM compound at Base Camp, Bidibidi, Yumbe district. Two are OPM staff while one is a UNHCR zonal support staff.

A cumulative total of 77 COVID-19 cases and four deaths have been confirmed in Yumbe since the outbreak of the pandemic.

No new cases for refugees have been reported.

#### **Protection**

IRC held a day's training for PSN caretakers in several zones on care-taking skills; roles and responsibilities of a caretaker; best practices; managing stress for care-takers; and guided them on how best to advocate for assistance that IRC is unable to provide. The caretakers were also encouraged to look out for alternative sources of livelihoods like growing some vegetables for consumption and selling as well.

On the 17 November 2020, three (2 female and 1 male) new cases of attempted suicide were recorded by TPO in Villages 3 and 7 of Zone 2. The caseworkers provided psychosocial support to all of them.

World Vision conducted an awareness session on children rights, with focus on ending teenage pregnancy and measures to prevent and protect children within the community. This activity targeted all parents/caregivers of the 18 villages of Zone 5 and Zone 3. In Zone 3, it was conducted in form of drama by the children and adolescents. A total of 265 (134 male and 131 female) persons of concern turned up for the sessions and pledged to protect their children.

During the reporting period, FCA licenced four schools (Nipata Valley Primary School, Highland Primary School, Knowledge Land Primary School and Nipata Secondary School) in Zone 4 with the Ministry of Education.

#### **Livelihood**

Six thousand face masks were produced during the reporting period. In Zone 1, UNHCR is conducting a training on under-wear production for a group of 25 tailors, that has been producing face masks.



OXFAM distributed 3,393 one-month old chicks to 32 farmer groups in nine villages of Zone 4. This is geared towards supporting the groups to undertake poultry farming as a business.

## **MID-WEST**

### **Kyangwali Refugee Settlement (Kikuube District)**

#### **Health, Nutrition and COVID-19 Response**

In the last two weeks the Ministry of Health has been piloting a rapid diagnostic kit for COVID-19 in Kyangwali Health Centre III. To date, a total of 100 clients has been voluntarily tested for COVID-19. A total of seven people turned asymptotically positive. And this has been confirmed by the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR). These include the five cases which turned positive this week.

Five positive cases (four humanitarian workers and one from host community) were registered. Contact tracing is already done. Twenty-eight people (all nationals) were in institutional quarantine center/home treatment this week and 23 alerts were received. The cumulative COVID-19 positive cases are 118 (41 refugees and 77 nationals).

The PoEs are flooded with water from lake Albert, submerging the health screening sites for refugees. The UNHCR Assistant Public Health Officer led an advocacy meeting which resulted in the district issuing more stable land for construction of temporary screening shelters at Sebagoro and Buhuka PoEs.

#### **Protection**

Forty-two (42) refugee leaders were trained on the Community Complaint Mechanisms - the Feedback Referral and Resolution Mechanism (FRRM) system, including PSEA in the Kyangwali settlement.

The SGBV working group conducted a dissemination session for the SGBV safety audit report with representation from WASH, Legal, MHPSS, Education, Livelihoods, Child Protection, SGBV, Shelter, Safety and Security subsectors. The report highlights risk of violence at household level, sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian workers, as well as gaps in service provision. Key sector specific mitigation measures were drawn by the stakeholders for action and advocacy.

WIU with support from ECW, conducted a capacity building training for teachers in double shift in Kasonga, Maratatu and Karuhinda. One hundred and two teachers (43 male and 59 female) participated in the training.

#### **Livelihood**

Forty-six thousand, four hundred and eight-three masks have been produced by 62 tailors as of 19 November 2020. The first bulk payment has been made to their mobile money accounts.

## **SOUTH WEST**

### **Rwamwanja and Kyaka II Refugee Settlements (Kamwenge district)**

#### **Health, Nutrition and COVID-19 Response**

Rwamwanja registered one COVID-19 positive case from a partner staff on 14 November 2020 and is on treatment with routine follow up. The 10 secondary contact samples were taken for testing in Kampala. Eight secondary and 28 primary contacts are in self isolation at home for 14 days, under monitoring by the health partner. Rwamwanja has scaled down direct interactions with refugees and additionally through community drives, there is increased community surveillance and sensitization to mitigate spread of the disease.

In Nakivale, 18 refugees are quarantined at the newly opened Kabahinda ECD quarantine center and in Rwekubo isolation center. Eleven asymptomatic patients are undergoing treatment at Mbarara treatment center.

In Kisoro there was one person admitted at the quarantine centre and one positive case was reported on 15 November 2020. This was an alert from the community.

In Kanungu district, there were 11 Ugandans in Matanda quarantine centre by end of the week, after five were discharged having completed the 14 days. There were three reported positive cases for COVID-19 in the district on 15 November 2020.

UNHCR in Kyaka II organized a five-day training for health workers on basic emergency and neonatal care in Fort Portal. The purpose of the training was to ensure that healthcare providers are skilled in providing quality maternal and child health services, to improve delivery and survival outcomes. Eight health workers from Kyaka II benefitted from the training.

### **Protection and Education**

In Mbarara, UNHCR Sub Office supported the training and roll out of ProGres V4 Child Protection (CP) module in Nakivale/Oruchinga and Kyaka II. The training was practical and targeted the CP case workers for Alight and SCI, to create cases, request for cases, and resolve any challenges that the teams had been encountering. For the 12 case workers (7 for Nakivale/Oruchinga and 5 from SCI), only four were able to log into the production environment, request for cases and create CP cases. For the rest of the case workers, their login queries were forwarded to the Registration Unit for support.

UNHCR in conjunction with Field Safety Adviser, conducted a training on Code of Conduct, PSEA, fraud and corruption, for UNHCR support staff in Kisoro on 17 November 2020. The objective of the training was to create awareness on and renew staff commitment to preventing and responding to SEA and fraud cases. Eleven support staff including two cleaners and nine security guards of G4S attended the training. Each participant signed a voluntary agreement in commitment to respect and uphold the code of conduct.

### **New Arrival Trends and Analysis/Border Monitoring**

In Kisoro, a total of 15 Congolese attempted to seek asylum in Uganda. One family of eight individuals entered through Ishasha border in Kanungu on 16 November 2020. The family claimed that they fled from Bihambwe in Masisi as a result of insecurity caused by the Maimai rebel group in their village. Another group of seven individuals, entered through a porous point at Busanja in Kisoro. They claimed to have fled from Bukoma because of tribal clashes between Nande and Hutu communities. Security officers from both borders advised them to return to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), since the Uganda border is still closed to asylum seekers.

In Rwamwanja, 255 individuals were newly registered on ProGres V4 in Rwamwanja between 11-17 November 2020. One hundred and eighty are new births (84 male and 96 female) all Congolese and 75 (36 male and 39 female) were asylum seekers. Fifty-five (27 male and 28 female) asylum seekers were Congolese; 17 (7 male and 10 female) were Rwandan and three (2 male and 1 female) were South Sudanese. Two hundred and forty-nine households (223 refugee attestation and 26 Asylum Seeker Certificates) were issued respectively.

### **Operational challenges**

In Adjumani and the surrounding areas, the deteriorating condition of roads due to heavy rainfall has limited movements to and from Moyo via Araa-Laropi and Obongi ferries. Major routes to Baratuku, Mungula, Maaji refugee settlements, are in a bad state and sometimes inaccessible, including the Adjumani-Atiak route.

In Arua, testing kits are still inadequate to monitor progress of cases and confirm alerts prior to discharges. Home based care continued to be a challenge for most people due to lack of facilities for self-isolation.