



OPM-UNHCR VERIFICATION EXERCISE: Update

HIGHLIGHTS

The countrywide verification exercise that started on 1st March 2018 was completed on 24th October 2018. The total population of asylum-seekers and refugees verified was **1,091,024** individuals. This represents **75.5%** of the estimated target of 1.4 million registered persons. More detailed results and updated population figures of asylum-seekers and refugees in Uganda will be made available soon.

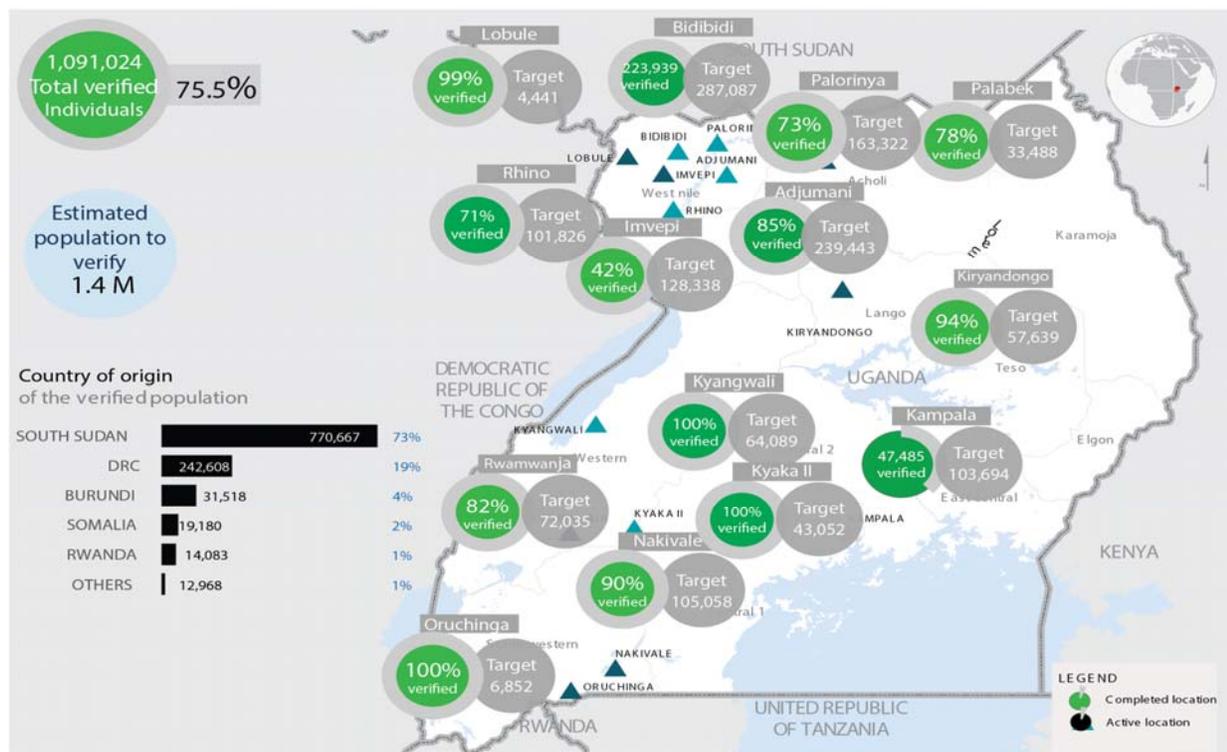
The two remaining verification teams completed the exercise on Wednesday in Bidibidi settlement and in Kampala, for the urban population. On the last days, the turnout reduced to a trickle an indication that the verification can be concluded which was jointly agreed by OPM and UNHCR.

In Bidibidi, a total of 223,939 individuals were verified since the exercise started on 4th April 2018 in the five zones of the settlement. This represents 78% of the initial target. The last three days were reserved to absentees who missed the verification on their allocated days. Towards the end of the exercise, fraud attempts by persons attempting to be verified were on the rise leading to additional scrutiny at all stages of the process. In the last three days alone, 418 persons (in 90 households) presented genuine refugee documents that do not belong to them and were denied verification. The majority were nationals.

In Kampala, a total of 47,485 individuals were verified since the exercise started on 10th September for the urban population of asylum-seekers and refugees. This represents 46% of the initial target, including a wide variety of nationalities and a number of protection cases that were addressed by UNHCR and partners on the ground. Fraud attempts in Kampala were mostly presentation of fraudulent documents and middlemen who were found to be collecting money from persons of concern claiming they could provide access to verification and documentation. Antifraud messaging was reinforced towards the end to address these concerns.

OPM and UNHCR appreciates the contribution of all those who made the verification possible, including settlement administrations, partners on the ground and refugees who supported the exercise.

KEY FIGURES



STAFFING

360+ staff = **6** teams of **60+** staff each (**96%** national staff)

65+ Verification sites

Daily Average All Teams

888

Reporting period

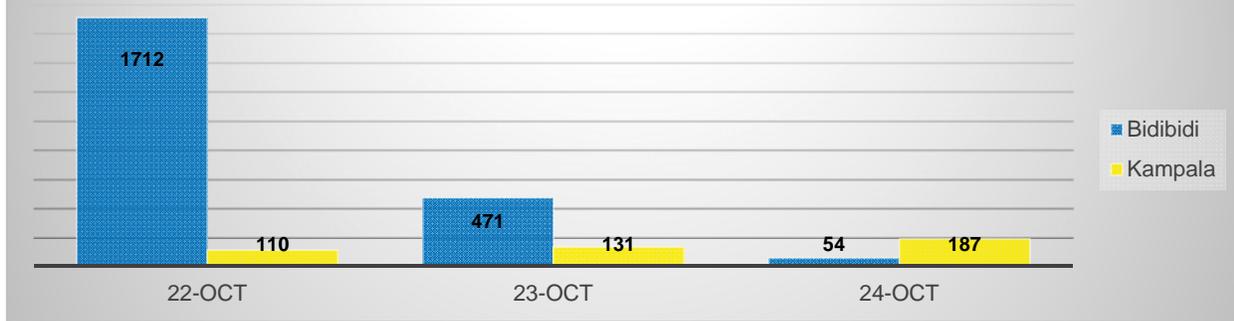
Highest Daily Verified

1,822

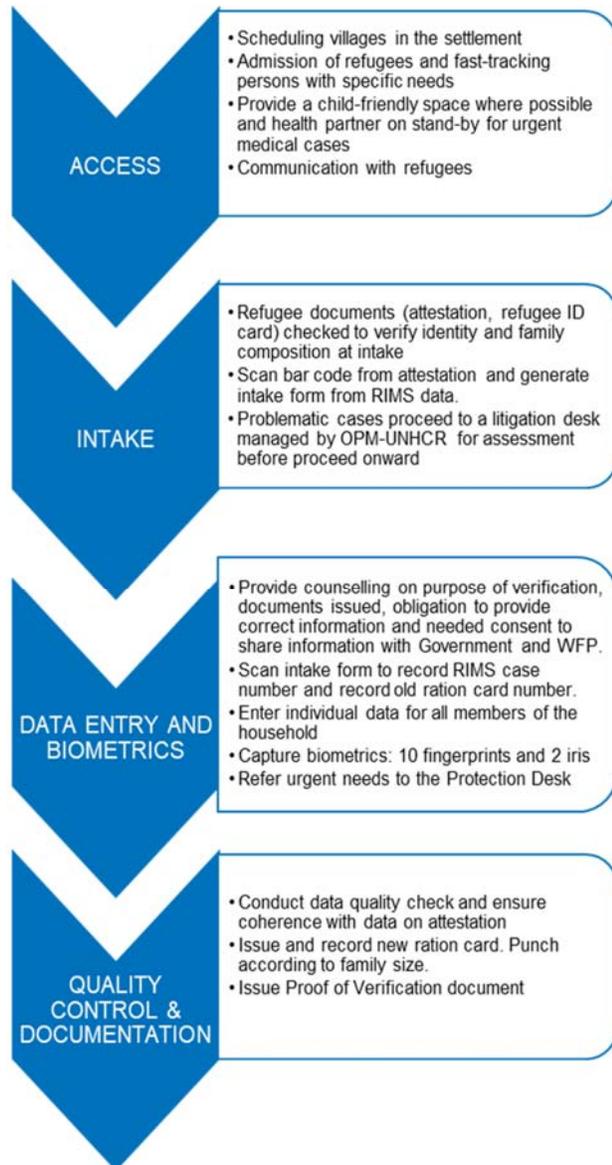
Reporting period



Verification Exercise Daily Trends



VERIFICATION EXERCISE: PROCESS FLOW CHART



CHALLENGES

The main challenges observed during the countrywide verification exercise include:-

- a) Logistical challenges linked to the management of a large-scale exercise, including technical and infrastructure setup, staffing, mobilization, and procurement.
- b) Bottlenecks in the process as about 80% of families were referred for litigation in some of the settlements. A large number of requests were received for family composition updates, addition of new arrivals to existing households and other biodata updates.
- c) Continued new arrival influx from DRC and South Sudan during the ongoing verification. In order not to impact the results, arrivals were verified without being reflected in the overall figures.
- d) Weather conditions, especially during the rainy season, often caused damage to the verification sites and increased daily commuting time to sites.

UPCOMING MILESTONES

With the completion of the verification countrywide, additional focus and resources will be focused on the roll-out of proGres V4 and BIMS for OPM registration activities in the remaining locations before the end of the year. Palorinya, Kiryandongo and Kampala will be prioritized in the coming weeks. Bidibidi and Adjumani, being the largest settlements, will follow during next month. Registration staff will receive training and equipment, in addition to on-site support. Connectivity upgrade for all registration sites is ongoing despite financial challenges.

Food and cash distribution with biometric verification of beneficiaries using GDT and BIMS will be launched in Palorinya, followed by Bidibidi (Zone 1-2-3) and the Adjumani settlements. Verification results and analysis will be made available soon, in addition to updated statistics of the active population in Uganda.