

Key Figures

68,318

Total number of persons of concern to UNHCR registered in urban areas

50,584

Are registered refugees

17,734

Are registered asylum seekers

SGBV INCIDENTS
(July 2019)

<u>Incident</u>	<u>Number</u>
Rape	7
Physical Assault	3
Psychological/emotional abuse	1
Total	11



UNHCR staff conducting a training of refugees on SGBV at Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS)

Key highlights

- The Head of Office of the European Commission's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) in Uganda paid a visit to the Norwegian Refugee Council to assess the impact of the NRC Information Counselling and Legal Assistance (ICLA) program currently funded by ECHO. The mission, accompanied by UNHCR protection staff, visited two centres in Kisenyi and Makindye where NRC conducts legal counselling, sensitization, group Information session (GIS), legal guidance, mediation, negotiation, physical accompaniment to service providers where refugees can obtain documentation (birth certificate, family attestation, asylum seeker certificates). NRC also provides guidance and support to refugees regarding registration of business including licenses, conduct trainings on refugee rights and obligation and advocate for access to basic services among others. Livelihood and support for education were raised as continuing challenges faced by urban refugees.
- UNHCR held a town hall meeting with Sudanese refugee community at the community centre in Kabusu. Key issues raised include access to education, health services, livelihood opportunities, resettlement, travel documents, capacity building for refugee community leaders and information dissemination. Key among the issues mentioned by women was the limited health care facilities to manage long-term health consequences of female genital mutilation particularly obstetric fistulas.
- UNHCR also held a quarterly meeting with the LGBTI refugee community in the Kampala. The issues raised include challenges relating to access to medical care and livelihood. To mitigate livelihood challenges, the LGBTI community has started an art and craft project to facilitate their economic empowerment. Additionally, a meeting with Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum (HRAPF) on 29th August. HRAPF has been supportive to refugee survival sex workers and the LGBTI community. The meeting recommended that HRAPF and UNHCR strengthen partnerships on advocacy, inclusion in meetings and trainings facilitated by HRAPF and UNHCR in respect to LGBTI persons of concern. The meeting also recommended consideration for a survey on LGBTI PoC in Uganda, for which targeted interventions can be implemented.
- UNHCR supported a female South Sudanese refugee to attend the International Conference for African Development (TICAD) as a panellist at the High-Level side event held in Tokyo, Japan on 29th August 2019 under the theme "Towards Enhanced Partnership and Solidarity to Support Forcibly Displaced Persons in Africa". Together with UNHCR High Commissioner; the Ugandan State Minister for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees; and the refugee representative, it was reiterated that there was a need for "Inclusive policies" by host governments, support to capacity building, support for income generation activities and women empowerment.

Sexual and Gender Based Violence

- The Kampala Level SGBV Working Group Meeting: was hosted and chaired by UNHCR on 7th August 2019. Participants shared updates on key SGBV activities, and it was also agreed during the meeting that the inter-agency SGBV referral pathways developed by the working group would be endorsed in the next meeting.
- UNHCR SGBV staff delivered a half-day SGBV training workshop to 20 refugees at Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) on 14 August 2019. A similar training was conducted on 21st August for the second cohort with 39 refugees in attendance. In total, 59 PoCs were trained on SGBV. The topics covered include concepts of sex and gender, guiding principles, types of SGBV, consequences and multi-sectoral responses, and key approaches

Child Protection:

- The Child Protection team conducted 24 (10Boys/14Girls) Best Interest Determination procedures (BID) out of the 41 BIAs initiated for children at risk. The identified children at risk presented various protection concerns including; different disabilities, serious medical conditions, UASC and SGBV survivors. Various interventions were provided to address the needs identified and routine follow up continues.
- 292 (143Girls/149Boys) adolescents from Kitebi primary, St. Peters Nsambya and Kisenyi Community primary schools participated in child-led counselling sessions which were chaired by fellow peers. During the sessions, the adolescents discussed how to cope with depression, learning difficulties, making choices, rights and responsibilities. The sessions created an empowering environment to the adolescents to freely and actively participate in the discussions.
- In addition, 29 (18Girls/11Boys) adolescents with behavioral concerns turned up for individual counselling sessions. The sessions aimed at understanding the individual challenges for each of the adolescents and referrals were made to psychosocial counsellors for support and to peer to peer clubs for mentorship, positive coping mechanisms and life skills empowerment.
- 523 (223M/300F) community members (including children and youth) attended the 04 child protection information dissemination sessions during the morning address at IAU. Issues discussed included; proper communication with children, acceptable punishment to children and supporting adolescents having difficulties in formal learning. This was intended to create a more protective environment for children in the urban communities.

Education

- The education team conducted information dissemination sessions on enrolment, retention and completion of school of refugee children. The sessions were attended by 1,341 (607M/734F).

- **ECD:** 271 (143M/128F) children aged 3-5 years are enrolled in the 10 ECD centres attached to KCCA primary schools as at term II.
- **Primary Education:** 3,821 (1,874M/1,947F) children between the ages of 6 - 13 years are enrolled in the 23 KCCA primary schools as at term II.
- **Secondary Education:** 701 (391M/310F) children between the ages of 14-17 years are enrolled in the 10 KCCA secondary schools.
- 06 children with various needs were supported to access education. Among these, 03 children at risk were supported with school fees, 02 equated academic documents to Ugandan standards (1M/1F,Burundian) and facilitated academic document translation for 01 female Burundian PoC.
- **Community involvement:** A protection integrated group counselling session was conducted at Kitebi Primary School with 187 (108F/79M) children in attendance. The topics discussed included the importance of education and challenges faced by the girl child and services provided by IAU.
- Urban PoC participated in the Youth dialogue with youth in school and out of school on the dangers of drug abuse among the youth as one of the activities to mark the International Youth Day.

Access to Legal Assistance and Remedies

- IAU Legal team provided legal assistance to 142 (62F/80M) PoC with legal related challenges presented largely concerning Human rights violations, custody applications in Court, employment disputes, tenancy disputes, simple defilement, assault to minors, guardianship orders, foster guardian arrangements, legal implications of civil marriages, police bond obligations, replacement of identification documents, the 72 hour window period, evidence chain of custody, registration of associations, obtaining trading licenses for business from KCCA, rights and obligations of a suspect in police custody.
- Court monitoring conducted for 03 cases (02 defilement, 01 aggravated robbery) to ensure that refugees understand Court Proceedings and also attain justice.
- 04 SGBV survivors received legal assistance.
- **Alternative Dispute Resolution:** 02 cases in need of mediation attended to as a result 01 was referred to Justice Centres Uganda for further legal guidance while 01 referred to Refugee Law Project for legal representation in a custody application.
- 332(165F/167M) PoC with protection and other concerns related to general insecurity, threatening violence resettlement, medical challenges, status determination inquiries, asylum registration processes, voluntary repatriation, family reunification, among others were attended to. All individuals were provided with relevant information including services available in urban and the role of IAU.

- **Follow up of cases at Police:** Regular monitoring/case follow up was conducted for 16 cases at Katwe Police Station, Old Kampala, Kireka CMI Detention Centre, Kakajo Police post, Nsambya Gogonya Police post, Buganda Road Police post, Busabala police post, Namirembe Community Police Post, Nakulabye Police post, Jinja Road Police station, Uganda Human Rights Commission Central Regional Office in Kampala. The purpose of the monitoring was to establish any new cases or legal challenges affecting refugees and asylum seekers and provide legal assistance as deemed appropriate for the POCs found in detention. As a result of the legal interventions, 01PoC was granted police bond 03 were charged and cautioned.

Legal community Outreach:

- The IAU legal team conducted 02 information dissemination sessions on business registration, acquisition of trading licenses, contract arrangements, and tenancy agreements' party obligations targeting PoC engaged in private businesses or informal sector. 814 PoC (443F/ 371M) attended the sessions. They were also guided on the importance of making police statements for reported cases and co-operating with the police throughout the investigations.
- 02 legal aid clinics were attended by 344 (295F/49M) PoC from the Somali refugee community in Kisenyi, Central Division & Kawempe Ttula. The PoC were provided information on rights and obligations of refugees, Refugee Status Determination and registration process for asylum seekers.
- A community outreach session was conducted with the Sudanese refugee Community and attended by 29 (8F/21M) PoCs. The awareness session focused on refugee rights and obligations, the importance of social cohesion and peaceful co-existence, respect for local leadership structures (Local Council Chairpersons, Police Officers and KCCA Law Enforcement).

Community Mobilization and Youth empowerment

- 2883 PoCs accessed the Antonio Guterres community centre in Kabuusu and the new community centre in Nsambya to utilize the internet, receive counselling, attend livelihood group meetings as well as receive training on tailoring, hair dressing and English language. The Kabuusu Community centre also provided temporary day care services to 09 children (07F/2M) children whose parents were engaged and needed temporary adult supervision. This is a community initiative by the refugee women.
- Mobilized 448 PoCs (267F/181M) to participate in the 04 integrated community outreach meetings. Issues discussed include general security, peaceful co-existence, health and survival techniques.
- Over 400 urban refugee youth joined the rest of the world to commemorate International Youth Day under the national theme "Transforming Education for Responsible Citizenship and Employment Creation." The celebration took place at the new refugee community centre in Nsambya with several activities

that included; motivation youth panel discussion, speeches, exhibitions, entertainment (MDD and fashion show) among others. Refugee youth were encouraged to undertake the responsibility of positively changing lives of refugee communities and to always embrace the available education opportunities. Humanitarian partners were also reminded to always involve youth living with disabilities in all program activities for meaningful inclusion.

- Additionally, UNHCR facilitated 25 (20M/5F) urban refugee youth to participate in the National CSO Sports Gala that took place at Kyambogo University playground on 24th August 2019. The major objectives of this activity were; active sport as an advocacy strategy towards achieving quality education, sport to reduce chances of acquiring Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD), strengthening collaborations and networking among state actors, UN agencies and CSOs and refugee communities. The refugee youth participants were fully engaged in all the available sports and emerged winners in athletics. CSOs and state actors recommended the continuous participation and engagements with the refugee communities to understand their plights and ascertain the best approaches to incorporate them in their general programming and planning.

Inter-agency Feedback, Referral and Resolution Mechanism (FRRM):

351 (142F/209M) cases were recorded during the reporting period. 224 cases were handled at helpline level while 127 were referred to UNHCR and partner focal persons for follow-up. By caller category, 316 cases were received from refugees, 27 from asylum seekers and 08 from other caller categories (Nationals) and by age-group, majority of cases (145) were from PoC between the ages of 36-45 years.

By sector, cases recorded were related to Durable solutions (111), General queries (67), Community based protection (49), Health and Nutrition (43) and Others (81 cases; Registration, Legal and physical protection, livelihoods, RSD, Education, SGBV, child protection, Energy and Environment, Food Assistance, Logistics and Transportation, Psycho-social Support).

Health

- **Primary health care:** 01 outpatient consultation was made with 138 referrals from refugee settlements to access services from national referral Hospitals. 147 tested for Blood sugar (12 newly detected with high blood sugar, and 135 normal) New detected were referred for care. 147 tested for Blood pressure and were all normal.
- **Mental health services:** 59 psychiatric reviews were conducted at IAU Clinic. Psychosocial and psychological support was extended to 44 PoC. 04 new admissions were referred to Butabika National Referral Hospital for tertiary care, 06 Discharges were made from Butabika.

- **Referral mechanisms supported:** 268 persons were received mainly from Bidibidi, Rwamwanja, Kyaka II settlements among others. The top diagnosis categories referred included musculoskeletal conditions, followed by Neoplasm conditions, ENT condition, and cardiovascular.
- **Reproductive Health and HIV:** Of the 60 individuals tested for HIV (49F/11M), non-tested positive and 15 persons received Intensive adherence counselling.
- **Maternal Health:** 33 pregnant mothers were followed up for ANC, 02 were under 1st ANC within the 1st trimester, 23 had their 1st ANC but above 1st trimester and 08 received 4 or more ANC visit. All were above 18 years. All tested for HIV and non-turned out positive. 03 high risk pregnancy was detected with no Abortions. All tested for STI Negative, 08 received 2nd dose of TT during ANC, 08 received IPT3 and more for malaria and 32 received Mosquito nets during the visits.
- **Nutrition:** 47 refugee children below 5 years of age were assessed for malnutrition. None was identified with severe acute malnutrition (SAM). However, 03 were identified with moderate acute malnutrition and linked to KCCA facilities for care.
- Lack of child friendly interview rooms and play areas for children and facilities to cater for persons with disabilities at IAU
- The two-urban community centres serving refugees and nationals are not well equipped and in need of additional and well facilitated trainers, functional and well-maintained sewing machines and computers with internet connection.
- Limited livelihoods opportunities for the urban persons of concern. Although some refugees have expressed interest in marketable skills' training for immediate employment, the available resources at the community centres are inadequate to meet the growing demand for the different categories of refugees and host communities.
- Underreporting of SGBV cases remains a major concern, due to a variety of factors including fear of stigma, shame, family reaction and dissolution, perception of SGBV as a private matter, or lack of confidence in reporting channels. Most survivors remain silent due to fear of reprimanding and/or mistrust on getting supported if reported.
- Need for a working group on rule of law/access to justice to strengthen coordination and legal response.

Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs)

- During the reporting period, 1341 (734F/607M) persons with specific needs sought accessed services at IAU as categorized below;
- 71(42F/29M) Older persons accessed specific services including counselling, legal services and accessed medical support. As a result, their quality of life and living is progressively improving.
- 59(32F/27M) refugees living with disabilities accessed services at IAU including medical support and counselling towards self-reliance to enhance their capacity to cope in the urban.
- 33 Single parents (12M/21F) accessed services including counselling, health, legal services and 3 were supported with food and shelter cash grants based on the vulnerability assessment. 37 women in reproductive age received sanitary towels
- 9 Home visits were conducted to provide home based psychosocial counselling. This enabled the counsellors to clearly understand the PoC issues and the given circumstances to inform appropriate intervention. In collaboration with Raising Gabidho, 350 persons with specific needs were mobilized for training in the use of cooking bags, briquette making to save the environment and promote use of clean and renewable energy.

Needs and Gaps

- There are inadequate and appropriate individual case management infrastructure at IAU for appropriate interviewing and counselling spaces including child friendly spaces.
- Lack of a sign language interpreter for persons with hearing impairments especially children.

PARTNERS

The Office of the Prime Minister's (OPM) - Directorate of Refugees, UNHCR's Government counterpart.

InterAid Uganda (IAU). A local Non-Governmental Organization, International Office for Migration (IOM), Refugee Law Project (RLP), Centre for Domestic Violence Prevention (CEDOVIP), African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (ACTV), ActionAid Uganda, Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES), Windle International Uganda (WIU), Finn Church Aid (FCA), Jesuit Relief Services (JRS) and Ministry of Gender, labour and Social development (MGLSD), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Centre for Women in Governance (CEWIGO), Care and Assistance for Forced Migrants (CAFOMI), Reproductive Health Uganda (RHU).

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