Highlights

- UNICEF and partners support over 148,350 South Sudanese refugees of which 88 per cent are women and children.
- The UNICEF/UNHCR/WFP report on the food security and nutrition situation showed a global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate of 20.3 per cent and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) rate of 4.6 per cent among the South Sudan refugees.
- A total of 18,309 children (10,682 boys and 7,627 boys) children have been registered at 34 Child friendly spaces.
- Some 9,900 children and adolescents sensitized and serving as promoters of peaceful co-existence in Adjumani.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

There are 260,562 children amongst the refugees and asylum seekers from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, Rwanda, Burundi and Somalia. The Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and UNHCR in Uganda have been co-ordinating inter-agency preparedness for new influx from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in 2015. An uncertain security situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) led to an increase in the daily arrival rate of refugees through Nyakabande Transit Centre. UNICEF conducted a rapid assessment and ascertained that in general, water, sanitation and hygiene, nutrition, child protection and immunization services for the affected population are readily available in the transit centre. Some of the refugees who were part of a previous ‘spontaneous’ return to DRC in the past are back to Uganda. Refugees cited different reasons for leaving DRC including escalation of conflict, fear of forced recruitment, targeting of violence based on ethnic background, attacks by unknown gunmen at night. UNICEF continues to coordinate with International Committee of the Red Cross, Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) and Save the Children to ensure that unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) are being registered and family tracing has commenced for new arrivals. UNHCR is to provide disaggregated data on UASC and child population, including those who will be transferred to Rwamwanja settlement.

Date: 21 May, 2015

Refugees & Asylum Seekers

260,562
# of children affected
(UNHCR Feb 2015)

351,311
# of women and children affected
(UNHCR Feb 2015)

433,029
# of refugees and asylum seekers affected
(UNHCR Feb 2015)

UNICEF Appeal 2015

US$ 36million needed
In another crisis, escalated violence around the current elections process in Burundi has caused an influx of refugees into Tanzania, Rwanda and DRC. While back-log registration is in progress, between early April and 15 May, over 1,500 new arrivals came directly to Nakivale and Oruchinga settlement. Uganda has compiled an inter-agency appeal to welcome about 15,000 refugees from Burundi (of which 3,000 are already in country). The situation in South Sudan remains relatively tense. According to UNHCR, in coming refugees who arrived recently report that there were attacks in Upper Nile and Unity States in Malakal and Nhialdieu payam. Hunger and fear among the civilians about the security of the states also forced them to flee their home to seek refuge in Uganda. On the 29th of April, Adjumani received an Inter-Agency Child Protection Framework Revision Mission, composed of UNHCR, UNICEF, Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and World Vision International (WVI) from Nairobi. The main objective of the mission was to review the impact of the regional framework for the South Sudanese emergency. The team had meetings with UNHCR, OPM, District and implementing partners on various issues related to the Regional Framework on Child Protection. The eight member team also conducted Focused Group Discussions (FGD) with Refugee Welfare Committees, Child Protection Committees, children aged 12-15 and youth aged 15-21 in Ayilo1 and Alere settlements. UNHCR Adjumani, LWF and OPM accompanied the mission to the settlements to conduct the FGDs.

With respect to demographics, a UNHCR report (6th of May) estimates that of the refugees from South Sudan, 68 per cent are children below the age of 18 years, 88 per cent women and children, two per cent are elderly persons. Some challenges in the response to children's education including congestion in schools, inadequate scholarships to support post primary education and inadequate teachers’ accommodation facilities. The UNICEF/UNHCR/WFP report on the Food security and nutrition (FSNA) showed a global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate of 20.3 per cent and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) rate of 4.6 per cent among the South Sudan refugees. However, anaemia prevalence in children 6-59 months in most settlements was at critical levels (above 40 per cent) and 37.4 per cent among women of reproductive age. While exclusive breastfeeding for children below six months was above 80 per cent, the quality of complementary feeding was poor in all...
settlements with over 45 per cent of children 6-8 months having been exclusively breastfed and only 1.2 per cent of children 6-23 months received minimum acceptable diet according to the infant and young child feeding (IYCF) guidelines. Needs are for increased support for preventive nutrition interventions and continued treatment services for malnutrition.

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

Office of the Prime Minister and UNHCR are the lead coordinators in this response. The United Nations Country Team meets to allocate complementary functions in responding to the range of needs posed by the influx of refugees into Uganda. UNHCR sector coordinators support the efforts led by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM). UNICEF is supporting technically in WASH, nutrition and education and supporting harmonisation of approaches and response within UNHCR led coordination mechanisms. The Government of Uganda’s refugee policy pivots around integration into Ugandan community development which makes UNICEF’s model of engaging directly with district governments is highly relevant. UNICEF’s strategic satellite office in Adjumani within geographical vicinity to the affected population is functional and technical specialists participate in coordination. UNICEF has contributed to the inter-agency appeals for refugees for Burundi, DRC and South Sudanese for 2015.

Humanitarian Strategy

The UNICEF humanitarian support to refugees in Uganda is based on inter-agency response planning and a longer term refugees and host communities empowerment framework (ReHope). Uganda Government allocates land to refugees with the aim of integrating them into local communities and service provision provided by the district government. This practice has significant resource implications compared to a policy based on encampment. Provision of sufficient space within Nakivale and Oruchinga refugee settlements to accommodate the projected figure of Burundian refugees will require development of new areas within the settlement. To accommodate South Sudanese refugees, the government-led process, has established a range of humanitarian priorities that affect both refugees and host communities in Adjumani, Arua, Kiryandongo and Koboko, and proposes a coordinated response to those challenges. Maaji settlement is a recent expansion. UNICEF support to the districts caters for expansion of the routine social services in health, nutrition, WASH, education and child protection to reach both refugees and host communities. Rwamwanga settlement is currently adequate for the influx of refugees from the DRC. Uganda receives refugees from the DRC through Kisoro and Kanungu districts at Nyakabande TC and Matanda TC respectively and through Bubukwanga TC and then transports them to Kyangwali, Rwamwanja, Nakivale and Oruchinga refugee settlements.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

UNICEF response with immediate needs of affected women and children amongst the refugees is currently focused on refugees from South Sudan.

Health and Nutrition: Mulago National Hospital-Mwanamugimu Nutrition Unit supported UNICEF to set up 17 therapeutic feeding centres (TFC), train approximately 40 health workers to identify and treat malnutrition in Arua, Adjumani, Koboko and Kiryandongo districts. Later, this was scaled up to establishing of 77 TFCs and training of 417 health workers on integrated management of acute malnutrition (IMAM). At community level, 2,697 VHTs have been equipped with skills on community nutrition, newborn care and integrated community case management (iCCM). Since the beginning of May some 1,633 children were referred and 987 children were treated for Malaria and respiratory tract infection respectively by trained VHTs in in the refugee camps. UNICEF with Concern Worldwide are support capacity strengthening approaches for detection, treatment and prevention of acute malnutrition and specific activities include equipment and supplies, training of health workers on IYCF practices, support for mobilization on micronutrient supplementation, technical support supervision of IMAM, promotion of key nutrition and health messaging, support for monitoring and supervision of nutrition programs mobilization for integrated Child Health Days. As a result of the above
programming as well as efforts from other stakeholders, the GAM and SAM levels have dropped below the emergency thresholds as indicated in the FSNA report. Immunization services are supported by UNICEF with a total of 86 and 217 refugee children immunized against measles and polio respectively in the month of May, however, this is provision since the month has not ended.

**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion (WASH):** Commissioning of six solar hybrid systems in various settlements of Adjumani improved average water supply from 18 l/p/d to 21 l/p/d. In Arua-Odobu II village solar-hybrid water system constructed with Missions Uganda is now complete and functional and has boosted the water supply in Odobu II from 13 to 20.8 l/p/d. UNICEF has supported an overall improvement in average water supply in Arua-Rhino from 14.6 to 17.9 l/p/d. A partnership with DRC and LWF has supported the construction of more than 9,000 latrines at the household level serving more than 45,000 refugees covering Adjumani, Arua and Kiryandongo settlements. Construction of 51 blocks of communal bath shelters has been completed in the newest settlement of Adjumani, Ayilo-2. Some 200 latrines are being provided for persons with special needs. The application of Effective micro-organisms (EMO) to reduce sludge and stench is ongoing at reception centres, health units and child friendly spaces. Hygiene promotion is being supported by the hygiene promoters who were recruited and trained by DRC and LWF. Borehole spare parts have been stockpiled in Kiryandongo, Arua and Adjumani to facilitate quick response to any possible maintenance issues.

**Child Protection:** UNICEF met with regional advisors to discuss best practice implementation of Child Protection Information Management Systems (CPIMS) and will continue to work with regional advisors to monitor the system as it is rolled out by UNICEF partner Save the Children for South Sudanese response. UNICEF in collaboration with Government and its partner, Save the Children, is registering separated Children, using the Rapid Family Tracing and Reunification (Rapid FTR) tool.

- As of 30th April 2015, UNICEF is supporting four partners to conduct psychosocial support and recreational activities in 34 Child Friendly Spaces in the three districts hosting refugees. To date **18,309** (10,682 Male 7,627 females) children have been registered.

**Education in Emergencies:** UNICEF with Save the Children and Plan International has promoted learning in safe spaces amongst refugee and host community children through campaigns and capacity strengthening of teachers, recreational and learning materials for up to 38 schools. Primary school construction of 110 Classrooms in twenty four selected primary schools and renovation of 64 classrooms has been done in Kiryandongo, Arua and Adjumani. The new facilities will create a relatively standard learning environment for 6,600 pupils in those integrated and community schools serving both refugee and host community children improving the pupil /classroom ratio from 1:126 to at least 1:78. A total of 2080 desks have been procured and delivered to the schools especially in Adjumani and Kiryandongo. UNICEF with World Vision addresses conflict within learning spaces through peacebuilding activities for increased social cohesion for in- and out-of-school children.

**Communications for Development (C4D)**
UNICEF and partners contribute to messaging on breastfeeding, nutrition, immunization, maternal health and water, sanitation and hygiene promotion. Community mobilization, communications capacity building amongst implementing partners facilitates organized coordination for communications in the settlements.

**Media and External Communication**
UNICEF Communications staff have visited the refugee affected areas recently to document the stories of refugee children and women. Examples of stories published include “Child friendly spaces support healing of South Sudan refugee children”, “Safe water, good sanitation and hygiene beget a healthy living for South Sudan refugees”. The media recently carried stories about the Information on the nutrition situation amongst refugees. ‘UNICEF Campaign against Malnutrition in Refugee settlements pays off’ https://youtu.be/pVVIpQGJupc
Security

Overall, the security situation in Adjumani, Kiryandongo and Arua remains low risk as per United Nations Department of Safety and Security. Uganda is rated medium risk by the United Nations Department of Safety and Security.

Funding

UNICEF is grateful to all donors for the contributions that have been carried over from 2014 and grant support from ECHO received so far this year which have made the current response possible. Continued donor support is critical for humanitarian needs of women and children in this response.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appeal Sector</th>
<th>Requirements ($)</th>
<th>Funds received against the appeal ($)</th>
<th>Funds carried over from 2014 received ($)</th>
<th>Funding gap</th>
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<td>Programme Support</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>36,111,839</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,060,446</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,383,952</strong></td>
<td><strong>88%</strong></td>
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Date of the Next Sitrep: 26 June, 2015

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