UNICEF Uganda – Flash Update
7 January 2014

HIGHLIGHTS

- Since the beginning of December, Uganda has received more than 36,000 new refugees. The influxes continue at four main entry points: Kisoro (where 2200 refugees have arrived fleeing insecurity in eastern Congo), Bundibugyo, (where 8,000 new arrivals have fled fighting in Kamango), as well as transit centers in Arua and Adjumani, (where 23,546 refugees have arrived fleeing violence in South Sudan and a further 3,000 recently arrived from Congo).

- UNICEF is particularly concerned about the influx of asylum seekers arriving from South Sudan. The number has already topped initial contingency planning figures of 10,000, and more than 1,500 individuals are expected to cross daily. Revised contingency planning figures are 30,000 (minimum), 50,000 (likely) and 100,000 (possible). A large percentage of the asylum seekers are women and children.

- Due to the ethnic nature of the conflict in South Sudan, there have been a lot of sensitivities around service provision and settlement of the refugees from South Sudan. Moving refugees from transit centers to settlements in Adjumani is also being slowed by a variety of land issues.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Since the 15th of December, fighting in South Sudan has displaced up to 200,000 people (OCHA). Uganda has received the majority of refugees fleeing violence in South Sudan, which could be because of the long
history of Sudanese displacement in Uganda during the civil war, and the fact that many South Sudanese have spent time in Uganda, and maintain strong ties within the country. Some asylum seekers have bypassed transit camps altogether, and arrived directly at settlements (Kiryandongo specifically has received 1,730 South Sudanese). Above and beyond those currently seeking asylum, it is believed that a significant number of South Sudanese are already in Uganda, but have not yet registered. South Sudanese refugees fleeing a different wave of unrest have been arriving in Uganda since 2012, and originate mainly in Jonglei. This makes a continued influx of individuals from this region likely, particularly now that the security situation has deteriorated in this region. The influx is quickly moving beyond a number which can be accommodated with existing resources. The Office of the Prime Minister has said that land is available for 100,000 refugees should it be needed, but a range of humanitarian support will be required.

### HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

- UNHCR has two transit camps in northern Uganda which are currently housing newly arriving asylum seekers in Arua and Adjumani districts. The capacity of these camps is roughly 400, and these camps are more than ten times above capacity.
- The Government of Uganda and UNHCR are moving individuals from the transit camps to settlements. This transfer is ongoing but has been slow due to a variety of challenges in negotiating with host communities—particularly in Adjumani.
- Crucial sanitation needs have been identified in the transit camps, which are filled significantly beyond their capacity. Additional WASH, protection, nutrition, and education needs have been identified at the settlement sites and will need to be addressed as refugees are transferred there.

### UNICEF RESPONSE TO SUDDEN INFLUX

- West Nile is a focus sub-region for UNICEF. In 2013, UNICEF has implemented a range of health programmes (including family health days and nutrition support). District focal points are on the ground, assessing needs and opportunities for UNICEF to expand its existing programme.
- A joint assessment was conducted in Adjumani and Arua on January 3rd and 4th. Currently, an inter-agency assessment is under way which will conclude on January 7th.
- Reports indicate a large number of separated and unaccompanied minors. UNICEF will therefore roll-out Rapid FTR as quickly as possible.
- The Minister of Health has been in touch with UNHCR to highlight a range of health needs, including the need for health and nutrition supplies. UNICEF has already mobilized supplies and conducted nutrition trainings in Arua, and will provide similar support to Adjumani as soon as the assessment is complete.
- Based on the findings from the WASH assessment, UNICEF will support through the provision of WASH supplies, as well as sanitation support in the coming days.
- In addition to WASH supplies, UNICEF has a variety of NFIs in stock in Kampala, which are available for immediate release to the transit centers and/or settlements in either Arua or Adjumani. These include: NFI kits, plastic sheeting, tents, school in a box, ECD kits, recreation kits, nutrition and health supplies and baby blankets.

### RESOURCES REQUIRED

- Resources are in place to support the immediate needs of the refugees with supplies and funds from the country office. The team is also reaching out to donors locally.

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