Highlights

- According to Government of Uganda’s Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) reports, a total of 15,139 refugees have arrived in Uganda since November 2014 and 50 per cent of them are children under the age of 18 years. The period 16th to 22nd October, 2015 saw the entry of a total of 39 new refugees up from the previous week’s 19 although still much lower than the 147 individuals who came in the previous fortnight.
- UNICEF supported establishment and equipping of 15 new Outpatient Therapeutic Centres to facilitate screening and treatment of malnutrition amongst children.
- Some 10,000 women, men and children are set to benefit from on-going water extension works by UNICEF with UNHCR and American Refugee Committee in Nakivale settlement.
- There is an increase in school enrollment from 2,407 in September to 3,277 children in October in Early Childhood Development, Primary, Secondary School levels and Vocational training as of October 22, 2015.
- Some 154 caregivers participated in a joint child protection dialogue meeting held by UNICEF, the Isingiro District Probation office, Windle Trust Uganda, American Refugee Committee and UNHCR in Kabazana A and Kabahinda D settlements.
Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The Government of Uganda’s Office of the Prime Minister reports indicate a reduction of daily new arrivals of Burundian refugees. A total of 15,139 refugees have arrived in Uganda since November 2014 as of October 13, 2015 and the majority (11,427) are settled in Nakivale, 247 in Kyaka 11, 162 in Oruchinga, 81 in Kisoro and 3,222 in Kampala. New arrivals are mainly coming into Uganda through Mirama Hills, Kisenyi Police post, Kagitumba and Kikagate border points. New arrivals are citing insecurity and fears of attacks from armed groups as reasons for fleeing. In Nakivale settlement, the number of new arrivals has dropped to 50 refugees from last week’s 173 individuals. At Kabazana Reception Centre, the weekly joint (UNHCR, Office of the Prime Minister, American Refugee Committee) physical headcount was halted due to fears of a Hepatitis B outbreak during the week of October 9-15, but this has been cleared and the routine exercise resumed. As of 15th October, the population at the reception center stood at 778 individuals (558 Burundians, 173 Congolese, 40 Rwandese and 7 Sudanese) with an average daily arrival of 14 individuals. This means there remains adequate space at the center for new arrivals. It can accommodate up to 1,500 individuals. An inter-agency physical head count is conducted every Tuesday to establish the number of residents at the reception center to guide resettlement and ease congestion.

As the steady influx of refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo continues to increase in Nakivale, pressure is being placed on services at the settlement shared by the vast majority of Burundians. The El Nino weather phenomenon is forecast for October 2015 to February 2016 and higher than usual rainfalls in large areas of Uganda; there is risk of strong wind gusts affecting shelters. Initial assessment of flood risk areas in refugee settlements suggest higher risk in the Nakivale, Kyaka, Rwamanja settlements. Mitigation measures recommended include relocation from refugees in flood prone areas and shelter items for roof repairs. Services at Nakivale HC III have been overwhelmed since it is the only facility having outpatient and inpatient therapeutic centres (OTC and ITC) in the entire settlement.

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

The Government of Uganda’s refugee policy pivots around integration into Ugandan communities. The coordination of all interventions to address immediate needs of Burundian refugees are being led by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) with support from UNHCR. A UNICEF programme team in the Western Zone is strategically placed to support response activities. UNICEF and other partners have supported a multi-agency refugee response plan (RRP) for Burundi refugees.

Humanitarian Strategy

UNICEF has operational programming in Uganda in the region where Burundian refugees are being settled. UNICEF’s humanitarian support to refugees from Burundi is based on an inter-agency “Burundian Refugee Response Plan”. Stakeholders have endorsed the revision of the operational planning figure for Uganda to 20,000 refugees with a worst case scenario of 40,000 refugee arrivals. Current refugee settlement camps are close to the Tanzania and Rwanda borders where the majority of asylum seekers are entering Uganda.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion (WASH): The settlements are currently serviced by water trucking by African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD). UNICEF through UNHCR partner American Refugee Committee has started extension of water systems to newly established five Burundi refugee villages in Nakivale settlement hence providing clean water to over 10,000 refugees. WASH services will be extended to early childhood development sites.
**Health and Nutrition:** UNICEF sustains therapeutic food supplies by making regular deliveries to facilities in the settlement. During the week of October 12-18, about 75 health staff and UNHCR’s Implementing partner Medical Teams International were trained on Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) by facilitators from Mulago National Referral Hospital. The staff members trained were drawn from 15 facilities around the district including Nakivale Health Centre III.

In the week of October 19-25, a total of 15 new Outpatient Therapeutic Centres were established in order to relieve Nakivale Health Centre III. UNICEF is equipping the new OTCs with height-boards, MUAC tapes and weighing scales. More weighing scales through UNICEF partner Mwanamugimu will be provided to Isingiro district. During the week of October 19-25, 240 Village Health Teams attached to various facilities including Nakivale HCIII and five other facilities within refugee settlements were trained on community nutrition training.

Some 15 staff from Isingiro District are undergoing training this week on Inpatient Therapeutic Care (ITC) on malnutrition issues among the refugees and nationals as well as available nutrition services in Isingiro. UNICEF is supporting the District Health Office and health teams to participate in radio messaging and talk shows on malnutrition issues among the refugees and nationals and available nutrition services in Isingiro. Key informants like technical and political leaders are expected to participate in this activity to sensitize communities and encourage buy in.

UNICEF, Ministry of Health, Medical Teams International and District Health Officers at Isingiro carried out a mass measles vaccination campaign during October 3-5 amongst refugees in Nakivale and Oruchinga settlements and host communities. A total of 21,152 children were vaccinated. They also conducted health awareness and promotion outreach events for health services through radio talk shows.

**Child Protection:** UNICEF supported Child Protection Training for 30 Child Protection Committee (CPC) members and five settlement-based Police Officers. The training was facilitated by the District Probation Officer and the Nakivale Child Protection Working Group from 28th September – 2nd October 2015. Members were oriented on their role and responsibilities, the child protection referral mechanism, and how to handle and report child protection issues in the community. They were supported with stationary to enable them to document cases identified in the community and linked with the Police Officers situated in their village.

UNICEF will support the remaining CPC Members to receive Child Protection Training by end of 2015. UNICEF is supporting Isingiro District to establish two Child Friendly Spaces in Nakivale Settlement and has provided tents and Recreational Kits to support activities in existing community structures. A total of 12 Child Protection Committees were elected in the 12 new villages where Burundian refugees are being settled. Child protection actors in Nakivale include UNHCR implementing partner ARC who support foster care management follow up and reintegration, best interest determination and assessments. Uganda Red Cross conducting family tracing, OPM conducting registration and documentation of children and land allocation.

**Education:** UNICEF is supporting Isingiro District to construct six ECD semi-permanent structures and provision of equipment and latrines in six ECD community centres reaching 300 children (55 per cent girls) in the new Burundian communities in Misera, Ngorama, Nyakagando, Kabahinda C, Kashojo B and the Primary school currently hosting additional pupils. A total of 12 ECD Centre Management committees (10 members for each committee) were established and the 120 Center management committee members were trained in the management of ECD centers. Windle Trust Uganda recruited eight Burundian teachers for Primary 1-4 levels and three instructors for the secondary school. The teachers speak English, Swahili and Kirundi – the common languages spoken and understood by the children in the learning centers.
Opportunities exist to improve school enrolment rates listed in the table below. UNICEF with partner East Africa Play Grounds is in the process of installing outdoor play grounds in the ECD centres. They have so far installed play centres in Nyarugugu and Kasehoja Primary Schools in the ECD section. UNICEF also supported the refugees with three tents in Misiera A, Ruhoko C and Kabahinda C where ECDs are established. This was to replace the tents that were affected by windy weather prevalent in this area.

Media and External Communication

UNICEF Communications staff have shared alerts in the media on the developing crisis in Burundi, impacts on children as well as the influx of women, men and children seeking asylum in Uganda.

Security

Overall, the security situation in the Ugandan districts (Isingiro and Rakai) hosting the main transit camps and settlement sites remains relatively good and is classified as Level 2.

Funding

UNICEF received with appreciation, the sum of US$440,012 from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and US$200,000 from DFID to support time critical and lifesaving interventions in WASH, health and nutrition for refugees from Burundi. UNICEF Uganda in 2015 requires US$2,925,591 to support immediate needs of women and children from Burundi within the sectors of WASH, Education, Nutrition and Health (Immunization) and Child Protection.

Date of the Next SitRep: November 30, 2015

UNICEF Uganda web page: www.unicef.org/uganda
UNICEF Uganda Twitter: www.twitter.com/UNICEFUganda

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<th>Appeal Sector</th>
<th>HAC Requirement (US$)</th>
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