Highlights

- UNICEF and partners support over 144,455 South Sudanese refugees of which 87 per cent are women and children including 12,793 in Arua, 33,381 in Kiryandongo, 91,743 in Adjumani and 7,538 in Kampala.
- A Polio house to house immunisation campaign was carried out amongst the refugees and host communities. According to the U-report Poll, 82% of respondents indicated that Polio vaccinators came to their home to vaccinate all the children under five years.
- UNICEF working with the Government of Uganda carried out an integrated nutrition screening through expanded programme on immunization outreach points and enrolled 2,254 children in refugee settlements into therapeutic feeding programs.
- UNICEF and partners have supported 46,000 refugee and host community women, men and children with clean water for households needs.
- A total of 2,195 separated children have been registered using Rapid Family Tracing and Re-unification (RAPID FTR) and provided with foster or alternative care services.

Refugees & Asylum Seekers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Affected Population</td>
<td>422,435</td>
<td>198,544</td>
<td>223,891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children Affected (Under 18)</td>
<td>283,031</td>
<td>144,346</td>
<td>138,685</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children Under Five</td>
<td>84,487</td>
<td>43,088</td>
<td>41,399</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pregnant women</td>
<td>21,967</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>21,967</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ethnicity of refugees as of 2015: Dinka 51.9%, Madi 20.5%, Nuer 9.9%, Others 6.9%
Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and UNHCR have been coordinating inter-agency preparedness for new influx from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in 2015. Current assessments are set to confirm potential influx from DRC emerging in the South of Uganda through Kisoro and Kabale. The South Sudan situation remains relatively tense.

WASH services within the settlements just barely meet minimum SPHERE standards and a Food and Nutrition security assessment (FNSA) among South Sudanese Refugees by UNICEF, WFP and UNHCR (Nov 2014) showed a significant improvement in the nutrition situation where Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) improved from 4.1 per cent to 1.5 per cent (below the emergency threshold). UNICEF has identified critical needs for immunization as well as infrastructure and supply needs in key health centers affected by the refugee influx.

Currently, Government primary schools that have absorbed refugees have stretched their absorptive capacity and some children are enrolled in makeshift community schools. While ECD centres are limited, most are sited at commercial centres in towns and larger trading centres. New centres have been established with high enrolment. In all primary schools near or within the refugee settlements the enrolment has multiplied limiting services in the under-resourced schools.

In Adjumani District, a large number of community schools are not recognized by the District Local Government. Primary education in West Nile is of low quality and all key education indicators (net intake rate, completion, and Primary Leaving Examination (PLE) pass rate and national assessment of progress in education results) are below average. Initially, at the beginning of the influx, lack of physical space and shortage of teachers led to low enrolment rates among refugees.

Current challenges are similar in host and refugee communities and include low retention, particularly of girls, limited availability of textbooks and low learning outcomes. There are very limited options for post-primary education in the settlements as well as the district particularly for pupils with incomplete primary education. The education sector response has adequately supported secondary, vocational or alternative education. There is reportedly a significant number of young people including adolescents who are idle particularly within the densely populated refugee settlements in Adjumani and are prone to abuse and exploitation.

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

Office of the Prime Minister and UNHCR are the lead coordinators in this response. The UN 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 providing technical leadership in WASH, nutrition and education and supporting harmonisation of approaches and response. 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. In response to recent developments in the region, UNHCR is co-ordinating an inter-agency appeal for refugees for DRC and South Sudanese for 2015 with UNICEF contribution.

Humanitarian Strategy

The UNICEF humanitarian support to refugees from South Sudan is based on inter-agency response planning. This 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. 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. Maaji settlement was recently reopened in addition to other existing settlements to cater for new arrivals. 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.
Summary Analysis of Programme response

Health and Nutrition: UNICEF is mentoring health workers on management of acute malnutrition and other health conditions. In addition, integrated nutrition screening and mass polio campaign is implemented during expanded programme in immunization (EPI) outreach and training of village health teams (VHTs) in integrated community case management. CONCERN Worldwide in partnership with UNICEF have supported the establishment of nutrition programs and distribution of supplies and equipment in the four refugee host districts where there were none.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion (WASH): Access to water by affected population was facilitated by drilling of 64 boreholes and rehabilitation of 28 boreholes serving approximately 46,000 refugees. On-going construction of 12 solar powered motorised systems is scheduled for completion by April 2015 and expected to serve at least 36,000 people. Water quality monitoring and surveillance is being carried out at water points and household level, together with the implementing partners (Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and District Water Officers, thus ensuring the provision of safe water. 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 Kyirandongo 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 Danish Refugee Council and LWF.

Child Protection: 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.
- To date, 2,195 separated children (938 girls, 1,257 boys) have been registered and provided foster or alternative care services in Adjumani, Arua and Kyirandongo districts.
- UNICEF is partnering with Save the Children, Plan International and Transcultural Psychosocial Organisation (TPO) to provide recreational and psychosocial support in 22 Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) in three Districts with an additional four adolescent and child friendly spaces under construction.
- CFS Management Committees and Child Protection Committees (CPC) have been established within settlements and are the focal point for identification of child protection issues. New partner, World Vision Uganda, is working with other UNICEF partners to roll out peace building and life skills activities targeting adolescents in Adjumani District.
- A total of 1,714 (862 female, 852 male) South Sudanese refugee children under the age of five who were born in Uganda and those born after December 2013 were registered in Adjumani district with support from UNICEF.

Education in Emergencies: Education institutions and centres opened in February, the services resumed in newly established ten ECD/CFS by Save the Children and Plan International. In addition UNICEF is also supporting nine centres that had already been established by both Plan and Save the Children. UNICEF supported the establishment and running of 31 ECD centres and access to psychosocial support for over 10,000 children between three and five years of age. In collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES), provided orientation on the community based ECD model for all participating partners and districts. Caregivers were provided with appropriate training. To improve access to primary education, UNICEF initially provided tents as temporary classrooms at the beginning of the influx in 15 schools. Constructing and furnishing of 207 new, permanent classrooms is on-going and rehabilitation of 63 classrooms in Adjumani District mainly in Government schools and in some approved Community schools. UNICEF provided teaching, recreational and learning materials for up to 38 schools to date and promoted learning through a 'Go to School', 'Back to School' and 'Stay in School' campaign in the districts. Improvements in quality of primary education was promoted through training of over 500 teachers and teaching assistants from the integrated schools (refugees and local) in refugee education – psychosocial support, counselling etc. as well as School Management Committees (host and refugee schools) in their roles and responsibilities. Support was provided for training of one Special Needs education teacher per school in child to child approach and identification and supporting children with special needs. UNICEF with World Vision addressed conflict within learning spaces through peacebuilding activities for increased social cohesion for in- and out-of-school children. Joint monitoring and intervention with districts and MoEES staff. The intervention provided technical support and contribution to a coordinated education response. UNICEF is providing bicycles to teachers from host and community primary schools and caregivers of the ECD centres in the settlements to ease their movement to and from school as most of the teachers commute from outside the settlements. Establishment of ECD centres is in progress and tents erected.

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”. Information on the influx of refugees is provided to local and international news media.
Communications for Development (C4D)

A U-report poll taken after a Polio campaign shows that Refugees are also benefiting from the on-going UNICEF Polio mass campaign as shown below. The U-report emergency dashboard informs of refugee and host communities reports on the quality of service delivery in the settlement camps and this helps to determine urgent needs of the communities. The use of Rapid FTR assists in the reunification process of families involuntarily separated as they fled to Uganda. Radio key messages for breastfeeding, nutrition, maternal health and WASH were aired on all local stations to mobilize people to take advantage of available services and other precautionary messages for their benefit. UNICEF and partners contribute to community mobilization, capacity building amongst communications implementing partners and organized coordination for communications in the settlements.

Security

Overall, the security situation in Adjumani, Kiryandongo and Arua remains low risk as per United Nations Department of Safety and Security. The Uganda Police and military have increased their presence throughout the area to make sure law enforcement officials are available to address any issues that might arise. Uganda is rated medium risk by the United Nations Department of Safety and Security.

Funding

UNICEF wishes to express its deep gratitude to all donors for the contributions (US$3,383,952) 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 to maintain humanitarian support to women and children in this response.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Appeal Sector</th>
<th>Requirements ($)</th>
<th>Funds received against the appeal 2015 ($)</th>
<th>Funds carried over from 2014 ($)</th>
<th>Funding gap</th>
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<td>WASH</td>
<td>8,735,225</td>
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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>991,071</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,383,952</strong></td>
<td><strong>32,474,945</strong></td>
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Date of the Next Sitrep: April 30, 2015

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http://www.unicef.org/uganda/media_15701.html
http://www.unicef.org/uganda/media_15309.html
http://youtu.be/pFpIS5d69WU
http://youtu.be/N1T9B1nUDYw
http://youtu.be/NHP3XgHF4mK

Blogs: http://blog.watermissions.org/ayilo-refugee-camp/

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