ON THE GROUND
Staying alive with limited access to health care is taking a severe toll on the health of children seeking refuge in Uganda. Continuing to arrive in large numbers, every refugee child is examined by UNICEF and partners, immunized against measles and polio, dewormed and given vitamin A. Existing primary health care services have been stretched beyond capacity to cope with the huge demand. Immunization programmes have kept vaccine-preventable diseases at bay in both host and refugee communities. However, with limited resources and unpredictable funding, life-saving interventions continue to take precedence over managing chronic conditions such as HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, among others.

UNICEF is contributing to the road map of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) and has incorporated both short term emergency health interventions as well as long term resilience initiatives.

PILLAR 2: EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND ONGOING NEEDS
• medical screening and vaccinating all refugee children against polio and measles at transit and reception centres
• supporting routine child immunization programmes
• procuring medical equipment to enhance the capacity of primary health care facilities
• supporting additional health professionals to meet increased demand
• mobilizing village health teams to extend health promotion and strengthen referrals within the refugee settlements
• strengthening District data management systems

HEALTH IN NUMBERS

282,000
CHILDREN IMMUNIZED AGAINST MEASLES FROM JANUARY 2016 TO MAY 2017

258,000
CHILDREN UNDER 5 VACCINATED AGAINST POLIO FROM JANUARY 2016 TO MAY 2017

Note: Figures change constantly due to frequent movements of refugees
Some people have false beliefs about vaccinations and whether they are safe, or can work. I go from door to door in my village to help answer their questions and we also hold community meetings to give them more information. If you persuade one parent to immunize their children, then they tell another parent and slowly the message gets through. All my children are immunized. Children don’t have to die from diseases like measles.

Peter, 50, is a trader and father of 16, from Kibuye Parish, Kyegegwa District, western Uganda.