

UNHCR Operation in Uganda

Fact Sheet | 18 December 2012

- Uganda closed Bunagana border to DR Congo on 13 November in response to a request by President Kabila to stop allowing M23 to gain custom duties on commercial traffic going through Bunagana. There was notable resentment by Ugandan nationals due to economic hardships and family ties wrecked due to closure of Bunagana border. Following negotiations by the district authorities, Bunagana border was officially re-opened on 10 December. Only goods and merchandise less than 20 tones will be allowed across the border (in and out), movement of local residents back and forth across the border resumed normally and customs and migration offices re-opened for business. Bunagana border was relative very busy on 11 December as it was a market day with evident increase in cross-border movements by locals. Some of the day's new arrivals crossed through the main border point and transportation by AIRD truck was availed with support of the border officials.
- Fighting started in the early morning of 15 November in Kibumba area, approximately 30 km from Goma. The M23 took control of Goma on 20 November and fighting spread to Sake and Minova by 22 November. The President of DRC and Rwanda both arrived to Uganda to discuss the development on 20 November with bilateral meetings continued the following day. The pre scheduled ICGLR met in Kampala on 22 November and following discussions, issued a Declaration on 24 November outlining the steps towards peace including the Government of DRC to take note of the legitimate grievances of the M23; the departure of M23 within 2 days from Goma; and deployment of composite forces in various configuration to the city and the airport. The Congolese government eventually re-established control over Goma on 3 December, following the withdrawal of M23. Areas under control of M23 such as Bunagana, Rutshuru, and Jomba reportedly continues to be relatively calm, but the security situation in and around Goma are reportedly tense and uncertain due absence of any definitive peace accord.
- Negotiations between the Congolese government and M23 rebels started in the Ugandan capital-Kampala on 9 December. The meeting was due to end on 18 December, but was extended. As of 18 December, the rules of the meetings were agreed, but not the agenda.

UNHCR operational highlights

- As of 18 December, 55,710 refugees were assisted as new arrivals since the start of the year in the 2 Transit Centres of Nyakabande and Matanda. 4,505 refugees were resident while a total of 32,984 refugees were granted refugee status on a *prima facie* basis and transferred to the settlements. However, out of these numbers, approximately 20,000 are estimated to have left spontaneously from the Transit Centres/settlements either back to DRC or into host communities. As such, the estimated number of refugees currently in Uganda is around 35,700 plus another 10,000 or so in the host communities in Kisoro district.
- Since the fighting around Goma started on 20 November, 381 refugees (18%) out of 2,116 new arrival reported that they originate from Goma area and were affected by the fighting. The cause of flight is multiple with some reporting of fear of recruitment (mainly by M23 for youth as young as 14 years old); family reunification; preventive flight in anticipation of a counter attack by FARDC; fear of FARDC following looting by fleeing government forces during the onset of the clashes with M23; as well as running out of supplies in spontaneous IDP camps. Some also reported although Rwanda is closer, they heard rumours of possible fighting in Rwanda near the DRC border, hence decided to flee to Uganda.
- **Matanda Transit Centre:** There are currently: 291 family tents on ground, 2 Kitchen shades, 1 UNHCR registration shade with adjoining waiting shade, 1 URCS registration shade, 1 OPM office and 2 communal shelters (200 - 250 capacity) and 1 patient waiting shade. New arrivals continue to receive treatment at Matanda Health Centre III. HIJRA installed a motorized pump with 2 x 10,000 litre reservoir tanks and 4 tap stands. URCS is providing phone based tracing services for separated families and individuals.
- **Nyakabande Transit Centre:** A UNICEF child protection tent has been set up. The tent is to cater for children's activities: such as psychosocial counselling and sports (outdoor recreation activities).

- Rwamwanja refugee settlement:** Protection and community services activities including child protection are on-going with refugees provided with counselling and follow up. Child Protection Committees at the village level has been set up with UNICEF's support. Regular food distribution is on-going through WFP's partner Samaritan's Purse. Mahani and Kyempango health outposts by AHA are now running Monday to Friday. There is no sanitation facility at the health outposts and the community has agreed to dig the pit latrines utilizing the contribution of plastic sheeting, wood poles and plastic latrine slabs from UNHCR. Routine EPI Vaccination activities at the health centre and the outreach points in the settlement continue with UNICEF support. WHO conducted training for Village Health Teams. Reproductive health and SGBV activities including training are being supported by UNFPA. The water coverage of the settlement has substantially improved with roughly one water point within a 1 km radius (rural development standard). This sector was most critical at the start of the operation, but successfully received support from many agencies (AAH-I, HIJRA, IOM, LWF, Ministry of Water, OXFAM, UNICEF). UNHCR is now leading phase 2 activities to increase the water quantities/ accessibilities (motorization and extension of water distribution) in the populated areas of the settlements. Sanitation activities are also progressing with more families having the time and capacity to dig the latrines to a required depth prior to the distribution of the Household Sanitation Kit composed of latrine slabs and wooden logs. Currently, 2,565 refugee children (M: 1,433 and F: 1,132) are enrolled in the 3 existing schools. Renovation of the 2 schools and construction of additional latrines are on-going with IOM support. FAO concluded the seed kit distribution through ADRA. Monitoring results show a very good progress in the growth.
- A training workshop attended by over 40 border security officials and local leaders was held in November in Kisoro District and Mbale District. The training was facilitated by UNHCR and OPM officials. The workshop, entitled, "Strengthening the Protective and Management Capacity of the Uganda Asylum System" was aimed at increasing knowledge and skills of the security officials in refugee displacement issues at large and subsequently enhance their capacity while executing their roles and duties in their different designations and capacities especially in regard to refugee and asylum seeker issues. A similar training was conducted for local community leaders for the South Western region as well as a one day refugee law training for journalists in Kampala.
- South Sudan influx:** A total of 1,592 asylum seekers were registered since the last Refugee Eligibility Committee session in August in Arua and Adjumani. UNHCR and OPM relocated a total of 101 families/ 402 new arrivals in Adjumani from Alere refugee's settlement where agricultural land was lacking to Olua settlement newly opened for new arrivals. Each family was provided a plastic sheet for temporal use as they settled in their plots.
- Regular programme:** The annual focus group discussion which incorporates Age, Gender and Diversity Mainstreaming was conducted in all refugee settlements countrywide. The exercise started with a one (1) day training followed by 4-6 days of actual data collection. Multi sectoral teams composed by OPM, NGO partners and UNHCR staff attended the training and were engaged in the data collection. The analysis of data is on-going and will be incorporated in the partners' project proposals for 2013.
- South/ Mid-West operation:** Approximately 50 Burundian walk-in asylum seekers continue to trickle into Nakivale refugee settlement on a weekly basis. 354 individual Burundian asylum seekers have been registered so far out of an estimated 1,000 plus accommodated at Kabazana reception centre. Discussions are on-going with OPM as the increased arrivals coincide with the Burundian cessation process in Tanzania and the subsequence closing of the camps.
- The tripartite technical meeting as a follow up to the 10th tripartite meeting for the Rwandan comprehensive solutions strategy for the Rwandan refugees, convened in Kigali, Rwanda on 29 and 30th November. The Ugandan delegation comprised of three Government officials and UNHCR. The agenda was "common messaging" for refugees with an objective of intensifying voluntary return campaigns in the lead-up to the invocation of the ceased circumstances clause for those falling within the scope. As an outcome of this meeting, Rwandan government delegation from the Ministry of Refugees and the Rwandan Embassy staff accompanied by OPM Kampala and the President's office visited Nakivale and Kyaka II refugee settlements in early December. The team promoted voluntary repatriation to Rwanda and also provided information to facilitate decision making for Rwandans who wish to return.
- The long awaited construction of an operating theatre for Rwekubo Government Health Centre IV inside Nakivale refugee settlement was realized in the last week of October in coordination with Ministry of Health, the Millennium Village Project – Ruhira, MTI and the Rwekubo Government Health IV. A total of 10 caesarean sections (by MTI doctor) were carried out in the last week of October.
- Kampala operation:** A verification exercise for the urban refugee population commenced on 29 October has progressed well and refugees have generally responded well by turning up in large numbers. The exercise is planned in Old Kampala until 21 December followed by a grace period.
- West Nile operation:** Arua District Local Government roads department supervised maintenance and repair of 96 km of the community access roads network in the settlements.

Refugees and asylum seekers by country of origin (as of 01 October 2012)

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	TOTAL NUMBER
DRC	116,350
Somalia	23,678
South Sudan & Sudan	19,833
Rwanda	16,263
Burundi	10,798
Eritrea	7,252
Ethiopia	2,203
Kenya	1,430
Others	152
Total	197,959
of whom urban	50,646

New influx from the DRC

MONTH	NEW ARRIVALS
January	563
February	2,287
March	1,715
April	2,028
May	12,976
June	6,405
July	11,128
August	3,381
September	5,945
October	4,912
November	3,132
As of 18 December	1,238
Grand total	55,710

Note: Arrival through Kisoro and Kanungu Districts. The figure does not include Congolese asylum seekers arriving in Kampala and/or directly to the settlements.

New influx from South Sudan

MONTH	NEW ARRIVALS
January	15
February	533
March	355
April	957
May	425
June	228
July	361
August	122
September	15
October	62
November	109
Grand total	3,182

Return of refugees by country of origin

Country	Jan – Mar	Apr – Jun	Jul – Sep	Oct – Nov	TOTAL
South Sudan	1,496	173	0	2	1,671
Rwanda	0	16	133	77	226
Total	1,496	189	133	79	1,897



Inpatient ward at the Health Centre - Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement, December 2012

UNHCR operation in 2012 (in USD)

BY POPULATION	BUDGET	Earmarked contributions
Refugees	85,256,075	10,020,001
Stateless	110,000	0
Returnees	0	0
IDPs	100,000	0
Total Budget	85,466,075	10,020,001

UNHCR would like to appreciate the support received from the following donors for the Special Appeal for the Congolese Emergency:

Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF- Rapid Response); DFID/ UK; European Commission (ECHO); Government of Austria; Government of Japan; Government of the United States (PRM).

Working with partners

UNHCR provides international protection and assistance to the persons of concern together with the Government of Uganda represented by the Office of the Prime Minister - Refugee Department. In addition, the following NGOs, Government and District partners implement activities through financial support from UNHCR:

- Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA); African Initiative for Relief & Development (AIRD); Aktion Afrika Hilfe (AAH-I); Danish Refugee Council (DRC); Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ); InterAid Uganda (IAU); Medical Teams International (MTI); Ugandan Red Cross (URC); and Windle Trust Uganda (WTU).
- Adjumani District Local Government; Arua District Local Government; Kiriyaongo District Local Government; Moyo District Local Government; Nsamizi Training Institute for Social Development; Office of the Prime Minister Refugee Directorate; and Yumbe District Local Government.

Furthermore, operational partner NGOs, UN agencies and international organisations, with their own sources of funding, also greatly contributes to the protection and assistance delivery to the refugee populations. The following agencies have contributed in-kind donation and/or complemented UNHCR's activities through direct implementation:

Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA); American Refugee Council (ARC); the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS); Finnish Refugee Council; Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS); Humanitarian Initiative Just Relief Aid (HIJRA); Humedica International; International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); Lutheran World Federation (LWF); Médecins Sans Frontières France (MSF F); Oxfam; Pentecostal Church of Uganda (PCU/FIDA); Real Medicine Foundation (RMF); Refugee Law Project (RLP); Refugees United (RU); Right to Play; Save the Children (SCF) and World Vision Uganda (WVU).

Generous in-kind contributions were also received from various local charities, religious leaders and private businesses in Uganda for the emergency, for which UNHCR is extremely grateful.

Achievements: Focus on Sexual and Gender Based Violence and 16 Days of Activism

- The 16 Days of Activism is an International campaign that starts on the 25 November, which is the international Day against Violence against Women to the 10th December, the International Human Rights Day. This is to symbolically link violence against women to human rights and to emphasise that such violence is a human rights violation. To commemorate the 16 Days of Activism, every year UNHCR supports the refugee activities and participation for these important days and the opportunity is used to raise awareness on various aspects of violence against women.



16 days of activism launch in Rwenyawawa Primary School, Kyangwali Refugee settlement

- Activities of the 16 Days of Activism in partnership with the refugee community, both in Kampala and refugee settlements focussed on community outreach. Activities covered included sensitisation campaign including using SMS; community dialogues; SGBV Drama; football matches; training of women leaders on SGBV referral pathway and the basics of case management; focus group discussions on SGBV prevention and response; SGBV essay competition in schools; empowerment of community teachers; film day "Say No to Violence" and information sharing activities on SGBV issues.



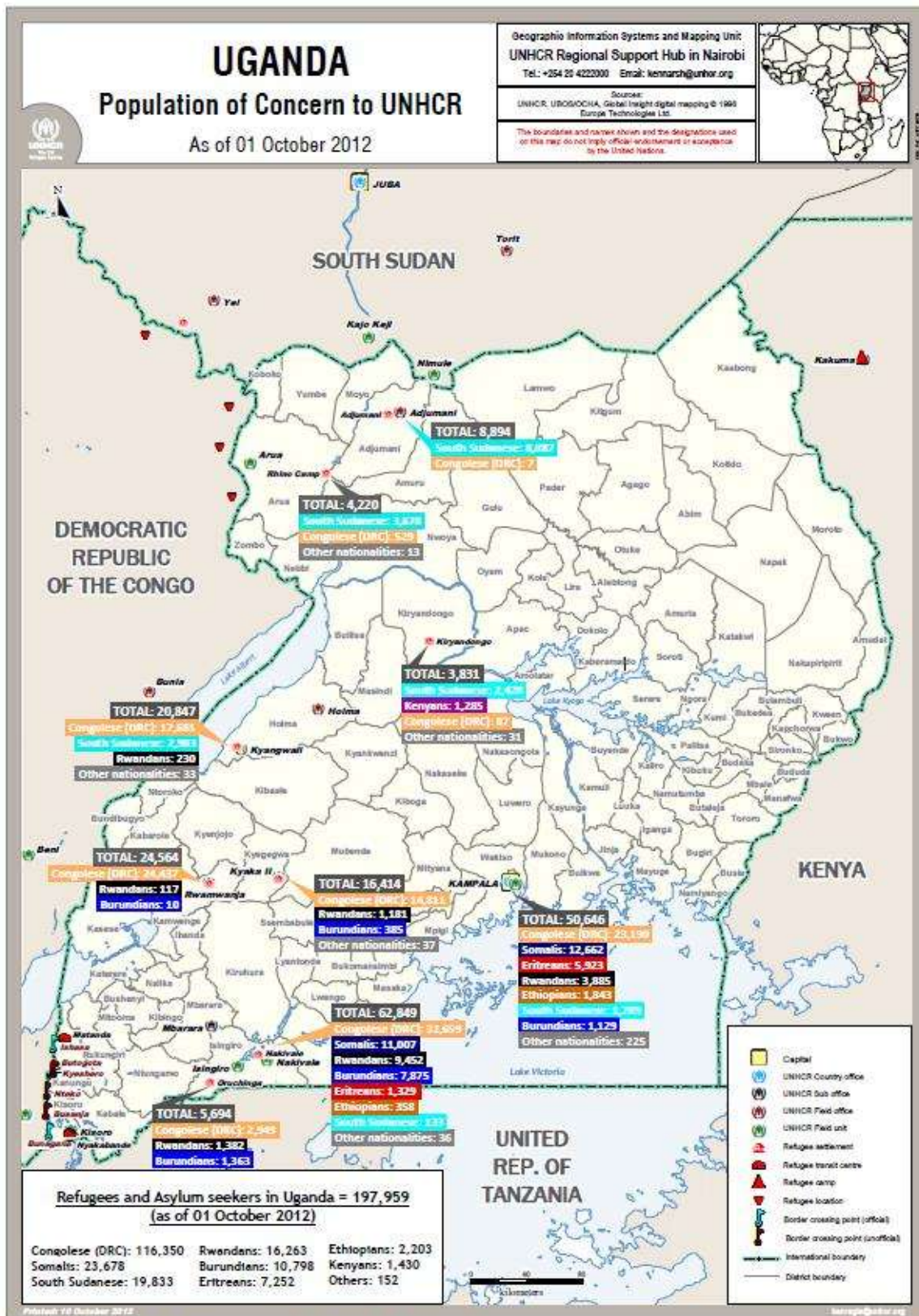
Community drawing: interpretation of violence free home



Raising of 16 days of Activism flags, Kampala

- During November, UNHCR succeeded in taking another step forward to have a structured reporting and information sharing mechanism on SGBV amongst partners working in the same field. The GBV IMS (Gender Based Violence Information Management System) was rolled out to the Uganda refugee operation and training was conducted for UNHCR staff, OPM staff and NGO partners working with refugees in Kampala and the refugee settlements. Following the training, bi-lateral meetings were held with the different partners at their offices to assess and support the setup of their GBV databases. At the end of the training, each organization prepared an action plan to ensure the GBV IMS is implemented. The GBV IMS combined with the Standard Operating Procedures established for each refugee settlement is expected to substantially improve collaboration amongst the various actors to provide a comprehensive care for the victims of SGBV.

- Police SGBV Desk at OPM in Adjumani was operationalized to strengthen legal assistance to survivors and improve community liaison on SGBV. UNHCR supported the office with a computer and allowance for two months while OPM provided office space, transport and orientation in the settlements.



UNHCR staff

Staff comprise: 120 national staff, 18 inter-national staff, including 2 JPOs, 30 United Nations Volunteers and 11 deployees/ consultants.

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