



OPM-UNHCR VERIFICATION EXERCISE: Update

HIGHLIGHTS

The ongoing verification of refugees in Uganda that started on **1st March 2018**, has verified a total of **26,386** individuals last week bringing the total as of 7th September 2018 to **900,502**. This represents **62.3%** of the estimated target of 1.4 million registered refugees. The highest daily output was **7,663** individuals verified in a single day last week.

During the week, four verification teams out of the original six were operational. The team in Arua already concluded the exercise in Lobule, Imvepi and Rhino. The team in Kyangwali transferred to Kampala where preparations were ongoing for the soft launch on Friday 7th September.

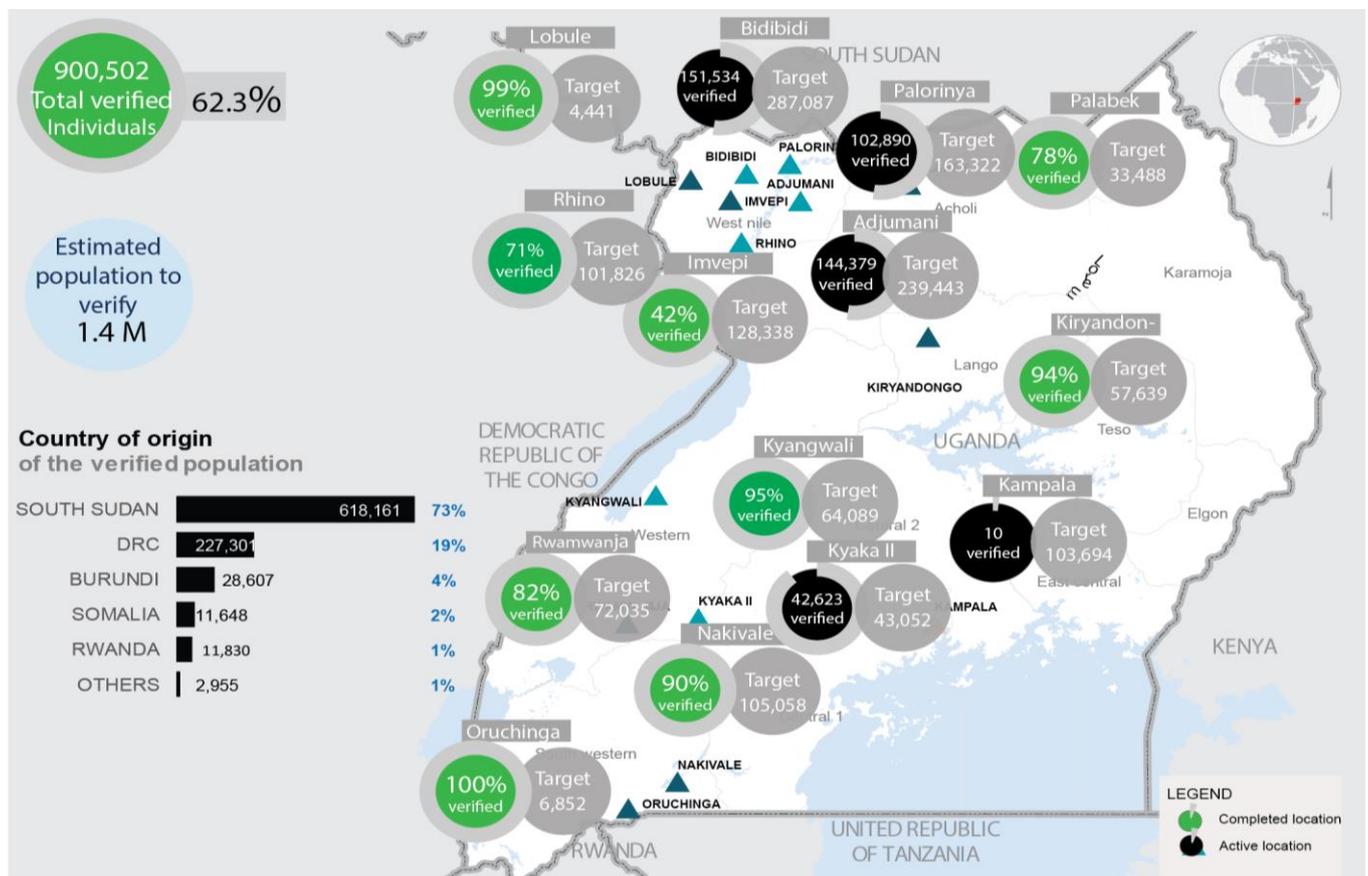
The verification site located at Old Kampala Secondary School was set-up with rubb halls and required infrastructure by logistics partner AIRD. UNHCR partner InterAid was engaged in the information campaign and recruitment of interpreters and ushers from the refugee community. The verification team received refresher training and briefings on the urban caseload and common cases particularities.

In Kyaka II, the verification team operated at half capacity as 25 staff members completed their contracts with three additional planned to leave by next week. Weather conditions also disrupted activities with heavy rainfall. Despite all of the challenges, the small team worked an additional day on Saturday and managed to verify 8,504 individuals, including new arrivals (post March 2018) that are not reflected in the official statistics.

In Adjumani, the exercise started in Boroli with a very large turnout and a record of 3,665 individuals verified in one day. An increase in fraud attempts was also noted, including the identification of 62 recyclers, 83 individuals impersonating registered refugees and 67 nationals. In Palorinya, a low turnout continues to be observed with OPM processing a backlog estimated at 4,000 individuals who have been living in the settlement pending registration.

In Bidibidi, a large turnout was noted in addition to a high number of baby additions and family reunion requests since continuous registration was not conducted in the settlement since early 2017. Ascertaining the existence of genuine relationships between the large numbers of persons requesting for family reunification, with hardly any identity document to support their claims, has been quite challenging. As a result, 265 individuals deemed to be Ugandans were rejected and denied family reunion. Additionally, 55 individuals were identified as impostors impersonating registered refugees and 39 nationals; their cases were closed and documents confiscated.

KEY FIGURES



STAFFING

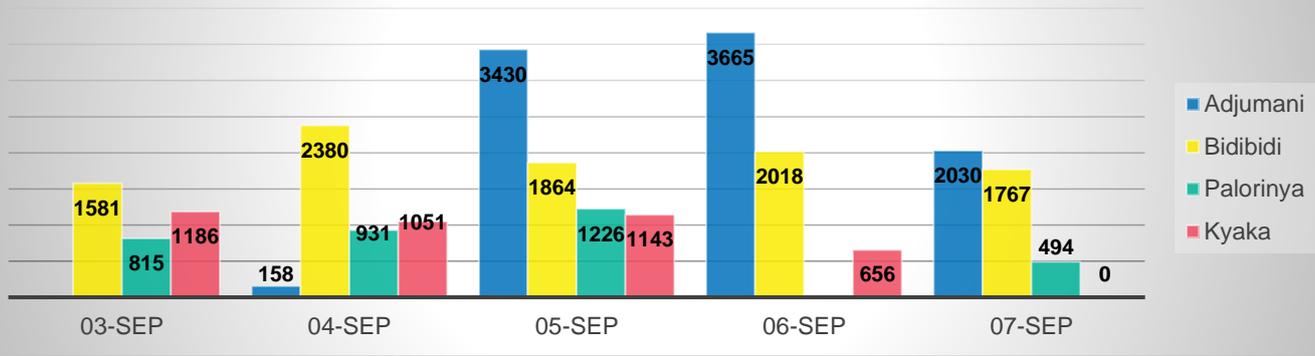
360+ staff = **6** teams of **60+** staff each (**96%** national staff)
65+ Verification sites

Daily Average All Teams
5,277
 Reporting period

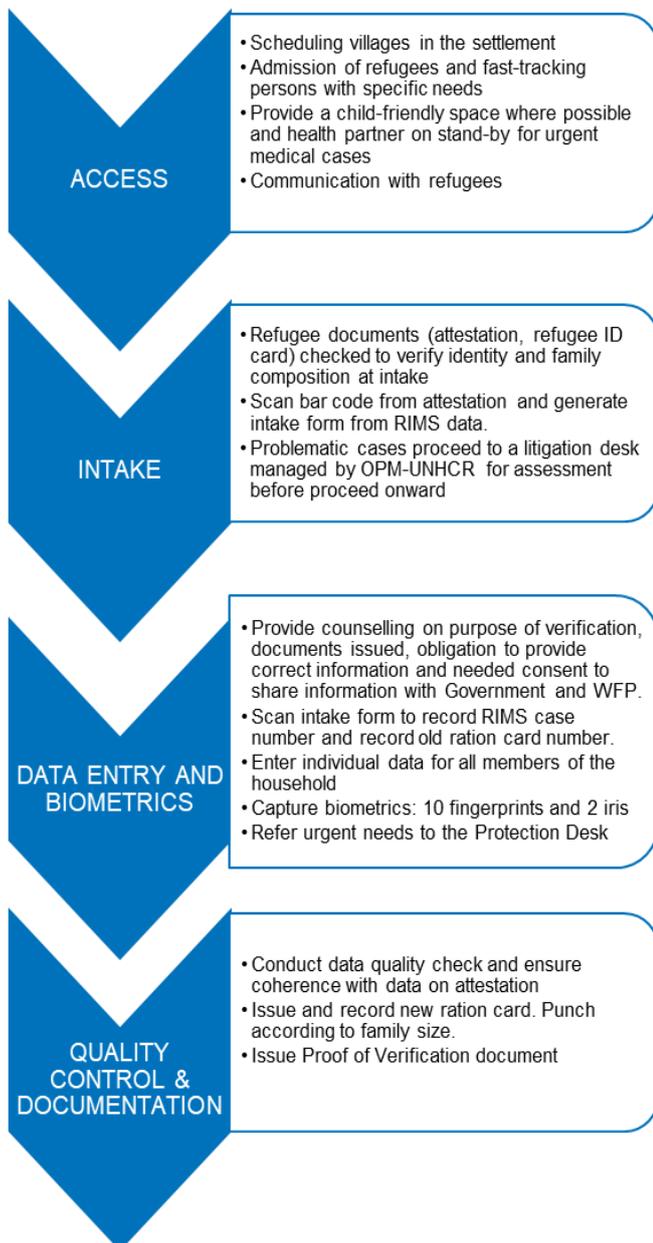
Highest Daily Verified
7,663
 Reporting period



Verification Exercise Daily Trends



VERIFICATION EXERCISE: PROCESS FLOW CHART



CHALLENGES

The start of the rainy season, accompanied by heavy rainfall, is impacting verification. Last week, activities were interrupted in Kyaka II temporarily for three days.

The high turnout in Bidibidi and Adjumani is resulting in crowd control challenges given refugees from unscheduled villages also turn up. Measures were discussed to better handle large crowds and adjust the information campaign accordingly.

Bottlenecks at litigation continue to slow down the process especially with an increase in fraud attempts noted as the exercise nears the end. Complex assessments of family linkages for family reunion cases are time consuming.

The Kyaka II verification team is returning to the earlier verification site of Intambabiniga to process the new arrivals caseload (post March 2018), in addition to absentees. This is expected to delay the completion of the exercise in the Southwest by a few days.

UPCOMING MILESTONES

Verification will begin in Kampala next week being the last location for verification location in the targeted 14 locations in Uganda.

Verification is expected to conclude in Kyaka II next week thereby ending the exercise in the Southwest Nile. Some delays are anticipated in Moyo as OPM finalizes the registration backlog of about 4,000 persons.

Verification staff with running contracts will be deployed from Arua to support the verification in Bidibidi and Kampala.

During the month of September, the new food collection procedures using the Global Distribution Tool (GDT) and BIMS will be rolled-out in Bidibidi – Zone 4 and Rhino.

Continuous registration by OPM using proGres v4 and BIMS in the Midwest is planned also in the coming weeks. Training will be organized, in addition to subsequent on-site support.

*Where Individuals or families present issues that need resolving such as a new family composition, a case that has been closed in RIMS and needs to be re-activated, they proceed to the Litigation desk.