Alere was established on 12 June 1990 in Adjumani District and has a surface area of 119 hectares. The settlement has hosted South Sudanese refugees fleeing the Second Sudanese War as well as more recent arrivals fleeing the country since 2013. Today, Alere hosts over 6,700 South Sudanese refugees and is closed to new arrivals. Projects implemented in the settlement focus both on humanitarian relief as well as development initiatives to improve the refugees’ and host communities’ resilience and livelihoods, although major gaps still exist.

Gaps & Challenges

Food distribution is often delayed and insufficient. Refugees reported that delays were as long as three weeks and that recent reductions in food distribution have led to dietary issues as they do not have enough food to last a month. Some refugees are now being provided with cash-for-food assistance of 17,000 UGX per month, however this is also not sufficient to purchase enough food to last for a month. They have thus resorted to selling non-food items (NFIs) such as mosquito nets in order to afford additional food.

The arid and increasingly unpredictable climate of the region leading to hostile dry seasons and irregular rainfalls combined with low soil fertility and the rocky condition of the land allocated in the settlement have significantly damaged agricultural activities. Refugees also reported limited vocational training support in developing income generating activities as an alternative to agricultural activities.

The quality of education received by refugees has been affected by the quality of teaching, limited staff numbers, language barriers and severe congestion in classrooms. Furthermore, high tuition fees, no school feeding programs and a lack of access to scholarships has led to significant levels of absenteeism and dropouts. Additionally, tuition fees for secondary school and the absence of vocational institutions means many adolescents are left with a feeling of idleness.

Health services are insufficient to meet the needs of the population. The health center faces a continuous shortage of medications causing patients to travel to Adjumani town to access the medicine they require. Both refugees and host community members expressed experiencing long delays in accessing health services due to overcrowding, a lack of health workers and an absence of emergency and overnight services. This has particularly affected persons with special needs (PSNs) and seriously ill patients, with delays in treatment and referrals leading to avoidable mortalities.

Since their arrival, many refugees have not been able to upgrade their shelters leading to many breaking down, which particularly affects PSNs. Refugees find it difficult to improve shelter durability due to them being prohibited from taking resources from the surrounding forest and the lack of construction materials provided. They have thus resorted to selling their food rations and NFIs to pay for new materials.

Strengths & Opportunities

Refugees and the host community coexist peacefully. An increased effort has been made by partner organizations to include the host community in service provision originally directed at refugees. The host community is now directly benefiting from access to health centers and services, livelihoods activities such as trainings on business skills, and the development of roads improving connection to Adjumani town.
Protection

Psychosocial

- 5 psychosocial awareness activities conducted in the past three months
- 2,089 refugees receiving psychosocial support
- 743 children registered to access psychosocial support

Persons with specific needs (PSNs)

- 367 PSNs have received services for their specific needs
- 148 PSNs need to receive services for their specific needs

Child protection

- 0% of child PSNs need to be provided with individual case management
- 100% of child PSNs have been provided with individual case management
- 0% of unaccompanied or separated children have not been provided with interim or long term care
- 100% of unaccompanied or separated children have been provided with interim or long term care
- 0% of cases in the past three months of child abuse or exploitation have not received age and gender services
- 100% of cases in the past three months of child abuse or exploitation received age and gender services

Water, sanitation and hygiene

- 9 additional litres per person per day (l/p/d) of water needed
- 11 average l/p/d provided
- 0% of water needs met through water trucking
- 787 refugees provided with soap
- 5,986 refugees still needing soap

Education

Refugees attend:
- 1 pre-primary school
- 1 primary school
- 17 secondary schools
- 1 adult learning programmes (ALPs)

Gross enrolment rates

- 754 refugees aged 3-5 enrolled
- 506 refugees aged 6-13 enrolled
- 1,037 refugees aged 14-17 enrolled
- 1,332 refugees enrolled

1 partner: DRC

- 0 additional hand-pumps needed
- 6 hand-pumps operational
- 1 motorized boreholes operational
- 4 active hygiene promoters or village health teams (VHTs)
- 562 additional household latrines needed
- 463 household latrines completed

4 partners: JRS, SCI, WCC, WIU

1. The gap of pre-primary enrolment could not be calculated here as children above the age of 5 are also enrolled in pre-primary education.
2. The gap of primary enrolment could not be calculated here as children above the age of 13 are also enrolled in primary education.
3. The gap of secondary enrolment could not be calculated here as children above the age of 17 are also enrolled in secondary education. Additionally, the enrolment figure presented represents secondary enrolment of refugee students in secondary schools across Adjumani district.
4. The data presented for secondary enrolment and number of teacher represents the data for Adjumani district as a whole, as secondary refugee students attend secondary schools across Adjumani district.
5. This is the number of secondary schools in Adjumani as a whole.

For more information on this fact sheet please contact:
UNHCR, ugakaimug@unhcr.org
REACH, uganda@reach-initiative.org
Food assistance

- 26 metric tonnes of food were distributed during the latest distribution in the settlement
- 135 eligible refugees have not received 100% in-kind or CBI food assistance in the latest distribution
- 1,652 eligible refugees have received 100% in-kind or CBI food assistance in the latest distribution
- 161,956,000 UGX cash for food was distributed during the latest distribution for the settlement

Livelihoods and environment

- 50 households have received improved cooking stoves and efficient energy for cooking
- 98 refugees have access to self-employment or facilitated businesses
- 98 cases of livelihoods support through:
  - 60 Cash/vouchers for livelihood provisioning
  - 38 Villages savings and loan associations
  - 21 Savings and cooperative societies
  - 0 Production kits or inputs for agricultural activities
  - 0 Productive assets or cash grants to start or improve a business

Health and nutrition

- 0 cases of HIV reported in the settlement
- 0 women delivered without skilled healthcare staff in the past three months
- 25 women delivered with skilled healthcare staff in the past three months
- 12% of children suffering from global acute malnutrition
- 48% of children suffering from anemia
- 11% of non-pregnant women suffering from anemia
- 100% of children identified with severe acute malnutrition in the past three months have not been admitted into treatment
- 0% of children identified with severe acute malnutrition in the past three months were admitted into treatment
- 0 cases of HIV reported in the settlement
- 0 cases of measles (children aged 15 and under)
- 0 cases of polio (children aged 5 and under)
- 409 Measles (children aged 15 and under)
- 785 Polio (children aged 5 and under)
- 338 Malaria
- 74 Acute water diarrhoea or cholera

Shelter, site, and non-food items (NFIs)

- No arrivals in the past three months provided with household NFI kits
- No households in total have been provided with NFI kits
- No arrivals in the past three months received shelter materials and toolkits/cash
- 21 PSN shelters have been constructed

6. 1 USD = 3,738.36 UGX and 1 euro = 4,373.43 (as of 28 August 2018, source: XE.com)
7. The health and nutrition data presented represents the data for both Alero and Oliji as refugees in Oliji use the Alero Health Center II.
8. Food Security and Nutrition Assessment (FSNA), October 2017, UNHCR
9. Alero no longer takes in new arrivals, this includes the past three months.