

Key Figures

339

Number of Police
deployed

30

Number of female Police
deployed

28

Number of Police Posts
in Refugee Settlements

3,364

Number of Refugees that
received legal Assistance

30,309

Number of Refugees
reached during community
sensitization

67

Number of Packages
Provided by UNHCR
(Fuel, accommodation,
WASH facilities, protection
house, vehicle, motorbikes and
transport)



A mobile court session held in Zone 3 Village 12, Yumbe District.

Physical Safety and Security

- 27(17F/10M) cases were registered in Bidibidi settlement. They include domestic violence (10), assault (4), defilement (5), breach of contract (3), Misrepresentation (3), Burglary (2) and Threatening Violence (1). 23 cases were referred to Police for further investigations and prosecution while 4 cases were successfully resolved. 45 cases were also registered, followed up and gathered from Kyangwali police station and posts within the settlement. 08 new cases were forwarded for prosecution to Kyangwali Court. Cases regarding loss of Refugee Identity Cards, Ration Cards, and Attestations) were referred to OPM for replacement of the same.

Access to legal assistance and legal remedies

- 32 (18F/14M) refugees and members of the host community in Yumbe were reached through legal counselling on issues of defilement, child to child sex, divorce, criminal trespass and malicious damage. 277(94F/183M) individuals were also reached through 4 Legal information sessions and community policing addressing issues on rights and refugee obligations, criminal offences and procedure for reporting cases.
- 27(17F/10M) individuals in Yumbe were provided legal representation by Uganda Law Society during mobile court and regular court sessions. 25 (13F/12M) refugees with civil cases were supported by Community Based Paralegals (CBPs) through alternative dispute resolution at grass roots level.

20 cases were heard by the Magistrate Grade One of Yumbe Chief Magistrate's Court. 1 case was dismissed, 2 reconciled and closed while 17 cases were adjourned for further investigation and prosecution. Interpretation services were provided during the court sessions and this helped improve access to justice and respect for the rights.

- In Kyaka II settlement, 4 cases of sexual assault and 4 cases of physical assault were responded to. The cases were referred to Police and the Medical partner. Additionally, 9 (4M/5F) PoCs in Kisoro who were arrested during a security operation on suspicion of being illegal migrants had their cases followed up in court and were consequently released and their cases closed.
- In Kyangwali, legal counselling was provided to 20 (8M/12F) individuals on issues such as domestic violence, neglect to provide necessities, documentation, assault, threatening violence, physical security and defilement. HIJRA facilitated three Court personnel with transport to and from Hoima to attend Court at Kyangwali to preside over 42 cases (36 criminal cases and 6 civil cases). Out of the 36 criminal cases, 17 involved refugees, while 19 involved nationals.

Coordination

- UNHCR, IRC, Police, Prisons, OPM, ULS and district officials participated in the District Coordination Committee meeting held in Yumbe. Key action points for 2020 included provision of health services in prisons, community policing, joint detention visits and support to law enforcement institutions.

Detention Monitoring

- UNHCR in coordination with OPM, partners and justice actors conducted 3 visits to Prisons and Police detention facilities of Yumbe and Bidibidi Prisons, Yumbe Central Police Station, Police Stations of Kululu, Odravo and Bidibidi Police out Post. 16 (0F/16M) refugees were identified in detention. The legal team provided legal counselling and conducted legal information sessions with inmates on rights of accused persons and criminal trial procedure in Uganda. 3 male refugees were released and provided transportation and minimal cash for assistance to reintegrate back in the community.

Capacity Building.

- In Yumbe, 4 mentorship sessions were held with 88 (45F/43M) community-based paralegals in Zone 1, 3, 4 and 5. Key issues addressed include alternative dispute resolution, categories of cases for mediation, referrals, documentation and reporting. The paralegals were awarded certificates following training they received in August 2019. IRC held a review meeting aimed at building capacity of the team and improving performance. Key action points included updating cases and monthly summaries, database, reports and filing of all documentation.
- In Kyangwali, HIJRA conducted a refresher training for Court interpreters at Kyangwali Grade One Magistrate Court on the basic rules of interpretation in Court. The training was facilitated by Her Worship Grade one of Kyangwali Court and the State Attorney from the Directorate of Public Prosecutions Hoima and aimed at enhancing access to fair trial in courts of law. The topics covered the art of Court interpretation, Common terms in a Court trial, duties and responsibilities of Court Interpreters.
- Police Posts located within Kyangwali Refugee Settlement and at Kikuube Central Police Station were supported with furniture: 12 wooden chairs, 6 lockable drawers and 8 benches to ensure effective support and access to services by PoCs.

Community Policing and Advocacy

- 02 community policing sessions were organized and conducted in Yumbe in liaison with the Police, OPM and legal sector on the security in the settlement. 160 (70F/90M) community members were in attendance. Key messages centered on the laws of Uganda, dangers of riots, mob justice, illegal possession of guns and other dangerous weapons, reporting crime, and leader's roles in preventing and managing crime.
- In Kyangwali, 4 Community Policing sessions were conducted in Kagoma Reception Centre, Kavule, Munsisa B and Maratatu D villages reaching 433 PoCs (210M/223F). The sessions sought to educate the PoCs on the roles of HIJRA, Uganda Police, partners in refugee protection, Local Community leaders and the Community at large about their roles in fighting crime and ensuring a protected community. The community

was also educated on the importance of early reporting of cases.

Gaps Identified

There are several obstacles stifling provision of access to justice. They include:

- Limited facilities for holding juvenile offenders at Police posts.
- Inadequate facilitation of Court personnel which affects discharge of court duties and participation in Mobile Courts.
- Limited knowledge of Ugandan laws coupled with limited knowledge of Court procedures.
- Inadequate facilitation of Police (fuel, vehicles and accommodation) continues to affect presence of Police in settlements. International standards require that one Police Officer is deployed per 500 individuals, current numbers of Police Officers deployed in all settlement totals to 339 which is below the required standard.
- Language barrier at the Police stations and courts remains a challenge for witnesses, this is coupled with difficulty in accessing interpreters for court which often results in miscarriage of justice.
- Long period of remand for refugee inmates due to failure to access sureties on grounds that refugees lack fixed places of abode.
- Some prisons have inadequate facilities (accommodation, permanent latrines, fences) leading to congestion and poor welfare of detainees.
- Delay using we're going to have to combine that with concrete model much longer but they are able to get this this week will work resume yeah makes sense person waiting for the improvement why has the bigger collection to see it in the framework because I might also limit the management perhaps well given that we have election is already happened I don't understand it good question play under my
- Poor and prolonged investigation of cases due to limited capacity, lack of investigative skills, poor turn up of witnesses leading to frequent adjournments and case dismissal for want of prosecution.
- Delays in expediting cases (especially capital offences) due to intermittent court sessions, lack of legal representation and limited number of Judicial Officers to handle cases leading to increased case backlog.

Partners Implementing Access to Justice Response

Partners: IRC, HIJRA; DRC, ULS, ARC, RLP; InterAid Uganda, CAFOMI

Operational Partners: UNDP, LASNET

Contact: Carolyn Akello, Associate Protection Officer.
akello@unhcr.org