

UGANDA RHINO SETTLEMENT, ARUA

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

October 2016

KEY FIGURES

62,536

No of SSD Refugees in Rhino Camp

1,057

No of Unaccompanied Minors and Separated Children

65%

No of refugee children under 18 years in Rhino Camp

63,445

Population of Concern in Rhino Camp

13,206

No. of SSD refugees were received Rhino camp in October 2016

OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

- Explore additional sources of water to ensure access to an adequate and sustainable supply in new villages hosting refugees in Rhino Settlement.
- Expedite provision of services in the new villages.
- Expedite construction of shelter for PSNs

HIGHLIGHTS

- As of 31 October, a total of **63,370** refugees are hosted Rhino Settlement including 4,210 who are yet to undergo biometric registration. Among these, **62,536 (99%)** refugees are from South Sudan (SSD).



Rhino Settlement, line of jerry cans at the water storage tank, Oct 2016. UNHCR/H. Anguzu

- In October, 13,206 South Sudan refugees were received in Rhino Camp including 9,395 (71%) who were facilitated from Kuluba/Oraba points and were provided protection assistance.
- 12 new villages have been opened since July 2016 to host newly arrived refugees in Rhino.
- Refugees from South Sudan who entered the country through Oraba and Busia border entry points and through Kuluba Transit center are relocated to Ocea Reception Center (RC) where they are provided with assistance and have access to basic services (registration, shelter, WASH, food, health).
- The Government of Uganda's Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) with support from UNHCR, conducts biometric registration, Refugee Information Management System (RIMS) at the Ocea RC. UNHCR and OPM have introduced a random fingerprint mechanism at registration points to prevent abuse of the system.



Ocea Reception Center, Biometric registration RIMS of newly-arrived refugees from South Sudan, Oct 2016. UNHCR/H. Anzugu

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

- UNHCR Arua Field Unit has been up-graded to a Sub-Office and will cover the four districts of Arua, Koboko, Yumbe and Moyo. Rhino refugee settlements, located in Arua, host a total of 63,370 refugees and 75 asylum-seekers. The majority of refugees are from South Sudan with smaller groups from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan and Burundi. Refugees are settled in 25 villages in Rhino Settlement, Arua district. 65% of the refugee population are children under the age of 18, 86% are women and children while elder persons at risk account for 2%.
- The Government of Uganda grants those fleeing violence in South Sudan refugee status on a *prima facie* basis. UNHCR, OPM and partners continue to provide emergency humanitarian response to this population. The majority of refugees arrive through Oraba and Busia entry points and Kuluba Transit Center (TC) where they are received and assisted by UNHCR, OPM and partners and are provided reception facilities including access to shelter, water, sanitation, food, medical screening and relocation to a settlement. From here some of refugees are transported to Bidibidi Settlement in Yumbe District while others are facilitated to Ocea Reception Centre, in Rhino Settlement, Arua District where they are registered and provided further assistance before being relocated to a plot of land (30m x 30m) designated by the government.
- Between 1 July and 31 October 2016, a total of 40,503 refugees in 14,063 families) from South Sudan were received in Rhino Camp, Arua District. Of these received, 61% were facilitated from Kuluba Collection Point and Oraba border point in Koboko District. Among these received, 13,206 refugees in 5,655 families arrived in the month of October. New arrival refugees are largely from the Equatoria region mainly in Yei state and belong to the Kakwa, Pojulu, Bari, Kuku, Zande, Moru, Madi, Kaliko and Acholi ethnicities; a smaller number of refugees are Nuer, Dinka and Shiluk from Jonglei and Upper Nile States.
- A number of refugees have reached Uganda through the Democratic Republic of Congo and Salia musala border entry point. The majority of newly-arrived refugees are women and children. Based on interviews conducted with refugees, the main reasons for flight are: continued deterioration of the security situation and fighting and violence between government security forces and armed groups in Central and Western Equatorial states. There are reported incidents of killing civilians, looting of properties, rape, hunger and kidnapping of children and targeting the youth for recruitment in armed groups/forces.
- 12 new villages have been opened in Rhino Camp Settlement since July 2016 to host newly arrived South Sudanese refugees. This brings to a total of 25 villages hosting refugees within Rhino Camp settlement, Arua District.

Achievements

 **Protection** (UNHCR, OPM, Police, UNICEF, DRC, WTU, MTI, SCI, PCAF, CEFORD/OXFAM, Plan International, TAN, URCS, CARE and RICE)

- UNHCR/OPM ensured registration, documentation and Refugee Status Determination (RSD) through the Refugee Eligibility Committee (REC) and the Refugee Appeals Board (RAB) in line with the Government of Uganda's Refugee Act of 2006 and the Refugee Regulations of 2010.
- UNHCR, OPM and partners provided access to legal support; social services, including Child Protection, assistance to Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs), prevention, response and follow-up in the area of SGBV, psychosocial activities and community structures in the settlements.
- In the month of October, a total of 11,213 new arrival refugees were settled in their residential plots in villages within Rhino Camp Settlement by OPM and UNHCR with the support from other partners.
- A total of 11,079 refugees were registered in Refugee Information Management System by OPM with the support of UNHCR.
- **Child Protection** 1,057 UAM/SC were identified during reporting time, 122 BIAs were conducted and 36 Unaccompanied Minors (UAM) and Separated Children (SC) were placed under foster care.
- **Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)** 02 cases of SGBV were reported in October. The reduction in numbers is partially contributed to the increased awareness-raising campaigns by SGBV task forces.

- A total of 50 new solar lights were installed along the pathways, markets and water sources within Rhino Camp mainly in new villages where refugees have been settled. This is aimed at preventing the occurrence of SGBV in the settlement.
- **Challenges** there is need to expedite the registration process for newly-arrived SSD refugees in Ocea Reception Center (RC); support to PSNs including assistance with shelter construction should be strengthened.



Education (UNHCR, OPM, WTU, SCI, NRC, Plan International, ZOA, TAN, ArDLG)

- The Uganda education strategy (2013-2016) aims to increase enrolment of children aged 6 to 13 in primary schools and improve access to secondary, skills training and tertiary education. The enrolment rates in Rhino are as follows: ECD: 61%, primary school: 92% and secondary school: 08%.
- Rhino Settlement has 13 Early Childhood Development (ECD) centers and Child-Friendly Spaces. All centers are community-owned and supported by partners. A total of 2,038 children aged 3 to 5 years are enrolled in ECD classes which is anticipated to increase. 12 Primary schools including 4 in newly opened villages provide refugee children access to education. There is also one secondary school in Rhino Settlement with an enrolment of 146 students (108 refugees and 38 nationals) in 2016.
- **Challenges** Overcrowding remains a challenge in the schools; there is need for the construction of additional schools, extension of existing ones as well as teachers and school furniture.



Health (UNHCR, OPM, MTI, ArDLG, GRI, CWW, CARE and UNFPA)

- UNHCR and partners provide curative, promotion and preventive health services in 04 health centres in Rhino. Both refugees and host communities have access to these health centres. Patients in need of specialized treatment are referred to Arua Regional Hospital. Public health promoters in all sites are trained on an ongoing basis to enhance knowledge and improve on health seeking behaviour.
- During reporting time, the crude mortality rate and under 5 mortality rates stood at 0.12 deaths/10,000/day; maternal mortality rate was 0/1000/mth with the number of consultations/clinician/day at 70.
- **Challenges** There is need for timely replenishment of vaccines stocks as well as malaria and HIV/AIDs test kits. Transport for integrated outreach programmes in the settlements remain a gap with only two ambulance services. The need for an ambulance in Rhino remains a gap.



Food Security and Nutrition (WFP, UNHCR, UNICEF, MTI, WVU, CWW and GRI)

- WFP, together with UNHCR, provides food for hot meals at the Ocea Reception Centre as well as monthly food rations once refugees are moved to their allocated plots.
- Refugees are designated a plot aimed at promoting opportunities to produce their own food. In addition, UNHCR and partners provide further agricultural and livelihood activities.
- Nutrition programs include management of acute malnutrition, promotion of appropriate infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices, including exclusive breast feeding for the first 6 months of life, complementary feeding and deworming. UNHCR and partners regularly conduct a food and nutrition survey in the settlements to identify the nutritional status of Persons of Concern and provide blanket supplementary feeding to children in need. A Supplementary Feeding Program (SFP) has also started in the settlement for Maternal and Child Health Nutrition (MCH) which will benefit pregnant and lactating mothers among the refugee and host communities.
- **Challenges** delays in the distribution of food and incomplete rations remain a gap; partners are working to address this. There is need for additional grinding mills to process the sorghum grain provided (in lieu of maize flour).



Water, Sanitation and Health (WASH) (UNHCR, DRC, WHH, IAS, OXFAM/CEFORD, Water Mission, ZOA, Malteser International and NRC).

- UNHCR and partners provide WASH facilities within Sphere standards (15 litres/person/day) during the emergency and 20 litres/person/day under stable conditions.

- The average supply of water per person/day in Arua stands at 12.2 litres/person/day. This includes drilling, motorisation and maintenance of boreholes, connection to main water lines and water trucking. UNHCR and partners are exploring new sources of water to increase the daily average provision of water to the population.
- 270 cubic meter of water was trucked daily to the new villages hosting newly-arrived refugees from South Sudan, using 08 water trucks.
- Sanitation activities aim to promote 1 latrine per household among the refugee population. UNHCR and partners support refugees in the construction of latrines in each household in the Settlement.
- The supply of water in the new villages stands at an average of 12.2 l/p/d, below the emergency average of 15 l/p/d. UNHCR and partners are working closely to find new sources of water for the population in Rhino.
- Access to latrines stands at 70% in the settlement with more under construction.
- **Challenges** there is need to increase the supply of water to the new villages hosting refugees. There is also need to expedite the distribution of treated poles and slabs to increase access to latrines. In parallel, hygiene promotion and awareness campaigns should be strengthened.



Shelter, Infrastructure and CRIs (UNHCR, DRC, ArDLG, NRC, OPM, UNICEF WHH, ZOA, CARE, IAS & SCI)

- Standard shelter kits and core relief items (CRIs) are distributed to newly arrived refugees. Additional shelter and CRI support is also provided to persons with specific needs.
- During reporting time, 5,208 Treated poles were distributed to 868 households and 487 plastic slabs provided to 487 households to assist with the construction family latrines and improve overall access to sanitation.
- 17 kilometers of access roads were opened to improve access to services in the new sites.
- **Challenge:** Provision of shelter needs and infrastructure support to Persons with Specific Needs with an emphasis on Child-Headed Households, elderly persons at risk, persons with disabilities, single females with large families remains a gap. The need is being addressed with partners; out of 100 PSN shelters, 49 sites were handed-over to contractors, 21 were completed and 28 were wall plated. Partners have agreed to engage additional contractors to expedite the process. Road conditions remain poor in the settlement; conditions deteriorate following heavy rains. UNHCR and partners are working to open new access roads and rehabilitate damaged ones.



Community Empowerment, Self-Reliance and Environment (UNHCR, OPM, WFP, WHH, DRC, IAS, ZOA, CEFORD/Oxfam, ArDLG and FAO)

- **Livelihoods** UNHCR and partners support livelihood interventions by building household capacity for food and income generation through training and improving access to agricultural initiatives. Non-agricultural support is provided in the form of enhanced access to materials and capital to start or develop small businesses such as soap making, tailoring, hairdressing, retail shops, restaurants and phone-charging stations.
- **Environment** Working with partners, UNHCR supports interventions in the environment sector by building individual and institution capacities through training, establishment of nurseries and provision of seedlings.
- Total of 8,413 assorted trees were marked to protect and conserve endangered tree species.
- **Challenges** increased livelihood activities including alternatives to agricultural projects remain a gap; there is need for greater coverage by cash-based intervention programs and also access to credit. On Livelihoods, there is need to boost tree-marking initiatives, strengthen reforestation efforts and explore irrigation opportunities. Increased coverage by briquette-making project is required.

Settlement Coordination and Settlement Management

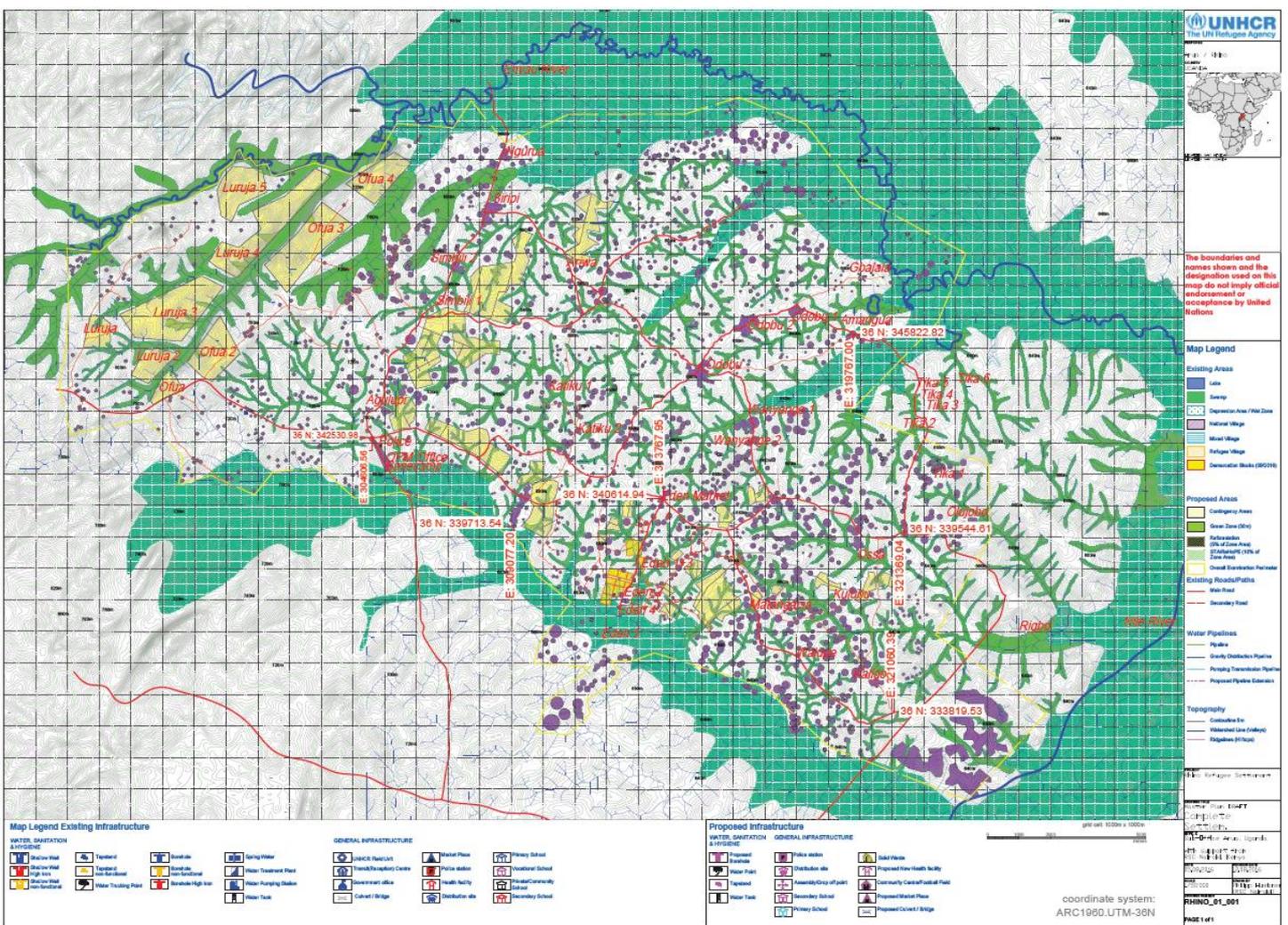
- OPM, supported by UNHCR, manage the Settlement and coordinate partners engaged in the provision of services.
- UNHCR, working closely with partners, coordinates the maintenance and day-to-day operations of Ocea Reception Centre (ORC) in Rhino Settlement.
- In addition, UNHCR/OPM and partners coordinate the management of 25 refugee villages in Rhino camp.

- **Challenges** need for improved communication between service providers and timely reporting.

Working in partnership

- **Coordination** OPM, supported by UNHCR lead and coordinate activities in Rhino Settlement. An inter-agency meeting (x2/month) is held in OPM Arua.
- **Weekly** coordination meetings at the sector level are conducted in Rhino (Protection, Health, WASH, Education, etc.) and led by OPM/UNHCR and sector leads. In addition, x2/week meetings are held on the coordination of the emergency response lead by OPM/UNHCR.
- **Partners:** In addition to Government authorities, partners engaged in Arua include: **CARE, CEFORD** - Community Empowerment For Rural Development, **CWW** - Concern Worldwide, **DRC** – Danish Refugee Council, **GRI** - Global Refugee International, **IAS** - Inter Aid Services, **Malteser International**, **MTI** Medical Teams International, **NRC** - Norwegian Refugee Council, **OXFAM**, Rural Initiative for Community Empowerment - **RICE**, **SCI** – Save the Children, Touch Africa Now -**TAN**, **UNICEF**, **War Child Canada**, **WMI** - Water Mission International, **WHH** – Welthungerhilfe, **WFP** – World Food Programme, **WTU** – Windle Trust Uganda, **ZOA**.

Rhino Settlement Sitemap



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