


**NORTHERN UGANDA AND WEST NILE BULLETIN - Humanitarian/ Development**

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**Highlights:**

- General security situation in West Nile area
- West Nile Refugee Population Update
- Key interventions of Agencies and Partners
- Monthly Thematic:
  - A Continuous need to support the integration of the refugee dimension into District Development Plans.
  - Humanitarian-Development Nexus: What is the New Way of Working?
- Key upcoming events in West Nile and Northern Uganda

**Security Situation in West Nile and Northern Uganda**

The general security situation in Northern Uganda is relatively calm and peaceful however, the threat of crime in general continues to prevail. Incidents of crime such as burglary, house break-ins and theft, muggings, robberies, murders and violent land disputes have been registered and are generally opportunistic and economically motivated.

**Incidents directly affecting the UN;**

At least one incident of attempted burglary with intention to steal was registered at a UN staff member's residence in Gulu Municipality and a dependent child of a UN national staff was killed within the period stated above.

Given the proximity of Northern Uganda to the Republic of South Sudan, the ongoing armed conflict in South Sudan continues to impact on northern Uganda in terms of South Sudanese refugees fleeing into Uganda. The conflict has also led to a rise in proliferation of small arms into Uganda and through the region a factor considered to have led to armed crimes especially in the districts of Lamwo and Kitgum

The threat of civil unrest has also been registered in Northern Uganda. There is sporadic unrest led by opposition politicians to protest against efforts to amend article 102(b) of the constitution that would lift the presidential age limit of 75, perceived to pave way for the incumbent president to contest as well as permit candidates younger than 35 years to vie for the presidency. All rallies called in major towns of the region such as Lira and Gulu were fiercely dispersed by police and several protestors injured while others arrested. UN travels through these towns were temporarily halted for some hours for fear of collateral damage

Nationwide industrial action by state prosecutors has hindered administration of justice since several suspected criminals cannot be prosecuted, a situation that is thought to have increased criminal activities in major towns of the region.

Over all, the security situation in Northern Uganda is permissible for UN to operate normally.

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### West Nile Refugee Population Update (data from UNHCR Oct, Nov 2017)

Districts	Number of refugees		Districts	Number of refugees	
	Oct	Nov		Oct 2017	Nov 2017
Arua	223,097	247,700	Yumbe	285,014	285,969
Moyo	184,701	184,698	Lamwo	34,535	34,619
Adjumani	239,335	239,335			

On average, the number of new arrivals across the 5 refugee hosting districts was 1,640 from October to November, meaning that the situation has become stable and manageable. However, a rigorous monitoring and early warning system must be maintained, and scenarios, based on the 2016 experience, be developed as an appropriate action (Contingency planning).

### Key Events and Interventions of Agencies and Partners in West Nile and Northern Uganda

#### UNFPA:

In commemoration of the International Day of the Girl Child in October, under the theme: *'Girls' Progress = Goals' Progress: What Counts for Girls'*, UNFPA and CARE provided hygiene kits to 80 teenage refugee girls in Rhino Camp to improve menstrual hygiene practices.

UNFPA hosted three donor missions from the embassies of Sweden, Belgium and Denmark to Northern Uganda and West Nile. The Embassies gained an understanding of challenges faced by refugees and host communities from a reproductive health and Gender Based Violence (GBV) perspective. The donors appreciated humanitarian assistance from a development angle in the integration of sexual reproductive health focusing on young people and women. UNFPA Representative, Mr. Alain Sibenaler, visited Gulu field office and refugee settlements in Adjumani and Yumbe.

Village Health Teams increased the likelihood of safe deliveries for 37,808 mothers by linking them to reproductive health services. In addition, 234,368 women of childbearing age received SRH, HIV and GBV information after being counselled at home. A safe and dignified delivery was ensured for 2,502 mothers who were provided with dignity kits at health facilities.

Miss Ma'di, a local popular celebrity that is highly respected among adolescents in the West Nile Region, delivered a talk to over 1,000 adolescents in primary schools in Adjumani on the importance of making right and healthy choices to fulfill their potential and achieve their dreams. This was organized by ACORD with support from UNFPA.

UNFPA supported midwives to provide skilled ante natal, safe delivery, post-natal and family planning services to 27, 141 mothers in health facilities in Adjumani, Arua, Kiryandongo, Lamwo, Moyo and Yumbe. 339 pregnant mothers were referred for emergency obstetric care through UNFPA supported ambulance system, 83 health workers were trained in emergency obstetric care and clinical management of rape. 145 GBV survivors received post rape services at UNFPA supported facilities.

#### UN Women

UN Women has two partners in Humanitarian Operation, War Child Canada and TPO. Together they reached over 60,000 women and girls in Adjumani and Yumbe. Interventions included the following:

- Psychosocial counselling and legal support for SGBV prevention, in a safe space that is accessible to the most vulnerable communities;
- Promotion of peaceful coexistence through community based peace-building activities, utilizing traditional and community based conflict resolution mechanisms with both refugees and host communities;

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- Establishment of a monthly Women's Forum where refugee women's rights advocates are empowered to voice their needs in humanitarian crisis and beyond
- Capacity strengthening of the humanitarian actors in Gender in Humanitarian Action and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.
- Multi-sectoral gender assessments of the overall South Sudanese refugee response that is used for advocacy and awareness raising among partners

#### **WFP:**

In GULU– Kiryandongo, Adjumani, Palabek Ogili, Palorinaya

- General Food Distribution 329,000 beneficiaries – 4820 metric tonnes per month
- Cash Distribution 77,000 beneficiaries – 2,412,118,500 shillings per month
- New arrivals – High Energy Biscuits, Hot meals
- Nutrition programme – Maternal and Child Health, Supplementary Feeding Programme
- Agriculture and Market support – post harvest production, livelihoods initiatives were supported.

In Arua – Bidibidi, Imvepi, Rhino Camp

- GFD – 510,000 beneficiaries – 6500 metric tonnes per month
- Cash – 17,000 beneficiaries - 8,700/198,000 shillings per month
- New arrivals – High Energy Biscuits, Hot meals
- Nutrition programme – Maternal and Child Health, Supplementary Feeding Programme

Due to a significant pipeline break for the 8<sup>th</sup> Cycle, WFP implemented a mixed modality food distribution with 50% of grain given to refugees in cash.

Northern Uganda Food distribution - WFP almost doubled warehouse (EDP) capacity across northern Uganda. WFP aims at pre- positioning of two months of commodities to enable uninterrupted distribution at all locations.

#### **UNHR (OHCHR):**

Completed training of journalists, editors and media owners from West Nile Region. Benefits included; increased knowledge of Human Rights (HR) and its relevance to the news materials covered by journalists, Media now explains and contextualizes HR information, increase in knowledge sharing between OHCHR and NUMEC, Improved coverage of diverse HR issues in media reporting to include Economic Social and Cultural Rights (CSCR) instead of sticking to conflict-related issues that border on International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

Trained Law Enforcement Agencies and Advocated with Police and Prisons against using torture as a means of getting information during interrogation as well as for those in detention. (Notable quick impact included: establishment of human rights committee among inmates and prison officials for effective reporting and monitoring of cases of torture, increased knowledge and information sharing between OHCHR and the prison and police on reported cases of torture, increased awareness of the international and national legal frameworks on the prevention and prohibition of torture).

Trained District Council officials of Northern Uganda Sub-region on Gender and Human Rights. (Notable quick impact included: strengthened mainstreaming of gender and human rights principles in the planning and advocacy programmes of the district leadership and administration as well as the independent and ownership initiation of outreach and sensitization programmes in form of ToT to the communities by the District Councils. There has been remarkable improvement in the reporting of cases of GBV by victims to the authorities concerned, and both women and girls are now confident and open in discussing pertinent gender-related issues that affect them; and men and boys are openly acknowledging the rights of women and girls, especially in the area of property ownership and inheritance.

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**UNDP:**

UNDP in partnership with ACTED and Save the Children, is implementing the Emergency Response and Resilience Strategy to develop sustainable livelihoods, by creating emergency employment through cash for work and developing microbusiness for 2000 refugees (70%) and their host communities (30%) in Moyo and Yumbe districts, targeting 60- 75% of women, with funding from Central Emergency Response Fund and Japanese Supplementary Budget.

In Yumbe district: Kochi, Kerwa and Kei sub counties: 27.3 km of access roads opened in 6 locations that connected 8 villages and linked communities to 2 Health Centers, 3 Markets, 3 sub-county headquarters, 8 primary schools, 1 Seed Secondary school and 3 trading centers. Rubbish management improved with rubbish pits dug in 3 trading centers. Zones 3 & 5 and Ariwa sub-county: 68.5 km of access roads maintained in 15 locations hereby linking villages to 3 food distribution points and connecting 5 villages to 2 health centres and 5 primary schools. Rubbish pits dug in 4 locations (Health Centre, CFS, market and trading centre). Improved sanitation in 8 locations (biometric centre, food distribution points, markets, health centres and trading centres) with garbage collected. 3000 trees planted in Ayuvu, Ombechi and Ariwa. 351 beneficiaries paid a total of 65,296,530 UGX for accomplished cash for work. 24 team leaders and 10 trainers were trained in first aid & life skills and business development respectively. Social cohesion improved and no GBV case was reported among the 500 beneficiaries after the training. .

In Moyo district: 7 km of access roads were opened in 4 locations and 34.3 km road maintained, resulting in communities connected to the main road, fishing landing site and Laropi ferry to go for trade in Adjumani, coupled with improved access to 3 health centres, 3 primary schools, 1 ECD, 3 markets and 2 sub-counties was enhanced.

**FAO**

FAO implemented the following activities in the Settlements: Kiryandongo, Rhino Camp, Imvepi, Omogo, Bidibidi, Palorinya, Agojo, Maiji 2&3 and Palabek

**Seeds Distribution:** A total of 28,613 refugees and host community were supported with 74.5MT of staple crop (maize and Beans) and vegetable seeds (eggplant, okra, collards, Kales and cowpea).

**Training of community based extension workers (ToTs):** 688 (332 female and 356 male) community resource persons/ToTs were provided with basic training on general agronomy, post-harvest handling and vegetable production/household nutrition and each of the trained ToTs are following and mentoring 10 beneficiaries.

**Establishment of Micro-irrigation:** To support communities to produce high valued vegetables throughout the year to sustain household food needs for needed micronutrients missing in food distributed under food aid and raise some income, six (6) sites were identified in the settlement of Mungula in Adjumani and Kiryandongo. All six systems established and communities are utilizing them for vegetable production. To utilize and manage the established system, 6 groups of 176 members were identified and trained for day on management and utilization of the systems.

**Poultry Distribution:** 25,500 chicks and 29,500 kgs of Poultry feeds were distributed and 10600 birds vaccinated against NCD.

Training done of 329(131 female and 198 male). community based resource persons on poultry production and management.

Resilience Measurement Index Analysis focused on analyzing the factors driving the resilience capacity of the refugee population and the implications of the presence of refugee populations on host communities has been conducted. The analysis is expected to provide insights into the exact needs to be prioritized that would lead to impacting livelihoods of both refugees and host communities; provide accurate resilience-based information for

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the development of Government action plans and programme interventions; and feed into the strategies and policies initiatives by Government of Uganda.

#### **UNICEF:**

Community awareness and sensitization went on during November for the refugee and host communities on peace building and other child protection issues such as the increasing defilement, its causes and prevention as well as discussions on community engagement in child friendly spaces. At least 983 adults, 227 children in peer to peer groups and 75 child protection committee members participated in these awareness and sessions.

At least 66 (36 boy, 30 girls) cases of violence against children were identified and prioritised in coordination with other service providers for a multisector approach to children's needs. These included one case of teenage pregnancy and three defilement cases.

Cases of psychological abuse ranked highest in November with 11 boys and 11 girls, followed by child labour 13 boys and 9 girls, followed by Physical abuse and neglect.

UNICEF has continued to support Technical Assistance (TA) to Yumbe district and CUAMM to rollout Vitamin Mineral Powder intervention among children 6-23 months Yumbe district host community were 78 health workers were trained.

Training was conducted of 437 Caregivers from Adjumani, Bidibidi, and Koboko refugee settlements and host communities from Nebbi and Arua, through Lodonga and Arua Core PTC in CCCP module 2 and 3. The same 437 caregivers were further trained as facilitators of parenting education based on the 22 key family care practices. The trained caregivers are now supporting the mobilization of parenting groups for parenting education through the different approaches.

UNICEF supported, the ECD mapping tool harmonization with the EMIS tool to ensure comprehensive data collection. The ECD Mapping is scheduled to start in Bidibidi & Adjumani and Kiryandongo refugee settlements in the second week of December.

#### **Strategic theme: A Continuous need to support the integration the refugee dimension into District Development Plan**

The West Nile sub region of Uganda has been home to refugees since the 1960s. Majority of the current refugees however crossed to Uganda from 2013 following violent internal clashes within the rank and file of Sudan People's Defence Army (SPLA). The year 2016 marked the peak of the refugee crisis and by July 2017 to date, Uganda is hosting an estimated 1 million South Sudan refugees mainly settled in the West Nile region of the Country.

The refugee-host community proportion in Uganda is worrisome for development actors and requires careful planning to reduce the likelihood of resource induced conflicts between refugees and their hosts. In Adjumani district every one out of two people is a refugee. The district with a host population of 229,500, currently (Nov 2017, UNHCR) has 239,335 refugees. Yumbe district has the biggest number of refugees in the country settled in Bidi Bidi . In Yumbe refugees form a third of the total population of the district. Moyo another West Nile district has over 180,000 refugees in Palorinya settlement and Arua district has over 220,000 refugees. This has put stress on service provision in districts that had and continue to have very poor indicators across most sectors. The increase in population due to refugees has however not been factored into the district development plans of the districts and they continued to use the meagre resources allocated based on the host population.

UNICEF realizing the stress on service delivery, introduced Risk Informed Programming in 2017, and supported the training of district technical officers in the refugee hosting districts as trainers of trainers. UNICEF in close collaboration with both the departments of Disaster Preparedness and Refugee Operations of the office of the Prime Minister and UNHCR, conducted Training of Trainers workshops (TOTs) to provide step by step guidance to District level managers including District planners, Social Services Directors, all the Settlement Commandants and Refugee Desk officers (RDOs) representing the Refugee operations on how to effectively

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plan for multi-hazard shocks and stresses especially with respect to rapidly growing populations due to the on-going refugee influx in the ten Refugee hosting Districts. These technical officers in turn oriented district council members, that are responsible for approving district plans, on the risks specific to their districts and how to incorporate them and plan for their mitigation in the district plans.

The orientation of district counsellors provided a platform and opportunity for better programming for both host and refugee populations in the districts.

UNDP, the National Planning Authority (NPA), and the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) held a workshop in Kampala, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017, to integrate refugees into district planning and revise the district planning guidelines. UNDP underscored the need to look at how – concretely – refugee hosting districts can be further strengthened to lead their local development, to leverage the opportunities, and address the specific challenges faced. With the national budget process underway, it is time for districts to re-visit their priorities for next year's budget in light of the refugee influx. UNDP has emphasized the need of resources and is optimistic about receiving additional funding, following the pledges made during the Uganda Solidarity Summit on Refugees and new financing that will be made available by the World Bank.

NPA also committed to revise the Planning Guideline for district local Government in order to facilitate the integration of refugee dimension.

Partners are now collectively seeking durable and sustainable solutions to this ongoing crisis that is taking longer than was anticipated and is likely to remain for the next few years. For sustainability, District Local Governments will have to fully ingrate refugee dimension into their DDPs. We all have collective responsibility to support DLGs in West Nile towards this approach.

### **Strategic theme: *Humanitarian-Development Nexus: What is the New Way of Working?***

The majority of humanitarian operations around the world are protracted, with humanitarian appeals lasting for 7 years on average. Humanitarian emergencies can no longer be viewed as short-term events, as they are often manifestations of structural and complex socio-economic developments. In addressing these situations, the linkages between humanitarian and development plans and operations are often weak or absent. For example, humanitarian planning cycles are typically annual and do not easily fit with longer-term development planning processes. The World Humanitarian Summit emphasized the need to bridge the gap between humanitarian relief and development. With this in mind, the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) generated the "New Way of Working" (NWoW) which aims to address the Humanitarian-Development Nexus. But, concretely, what is the "New Way of Working"? Is it just a new label or is it a game changer that will bridge the divide and ensure that humanitarian and development action are mutually reinforcing? A summary of the discussion is available online.

#### **Practical steps to implement the New Way of Working at the field level include:**

- Supporting joint analysis of needs, vulnerabilities, and risks, and of capacities to address them by strengthening coordination between the Humanitarian Country Team and the United Nations Country Team. Humanitarian and development actors should share their information and analysis to arrive at a shared understanding of the situation that needs to be addressed.
- Promoting joint-up programming. Humanitarian and development actions should be complementary in order to achieve collective outcomes, avoid gaps in programming, and minimize duplication.
- Aligning of planning cycles. Efforts to make HRP's multi-year instead of annual gives a unique opportunity to understand the coherence between the HRP and the UNDAF and to put forward a more sustainable solution for affected communities' problems.

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- Requesting human resources and political support from headquarters when necessary.
- Partnering with national actors to respond to humanitarian needs to strengthen national leadership and owners

### Key upcoming events in West Nile and Northern Uganda

#### ALL UN Agencies

16 Days of Activism against GBV (November 25<sup>th</sup> to December 10<sup>th</sup>); World AIDS Day (1<sup>st</sup> December). In commemoration of these important days, the UN agencies and partners will conduct activities such as community dialogues on male engagement for safety of women and girls, drama shows to raise awareness against GBV and HIV/AIDS,

#### UNWOMEN:

- Join interagency sensitization on peace and security, Gender and SGBV
- Developing a training manual in gender
- Calling for proposal for the Leadership Empowerment Access and Protection (LEAP)

#### WFP:

WFP will move to their new County Strategic Plan in January 2018. The CSP provides direction for WFP to strengthen the Humanitarian-Development nexus and increasingly support both host communities and refugees.

Hybrid model is likely to be introduced to two Final Distribution Points, one in Rhino Camp and one in Adjumani in the next couple of months.

Cooperation between UNHCR, OPM and WFP will be enhanced to ensure accurate food logs (beneficiaries lists) for improved food distribution capabilities

#### UNDP:

In Yumbe and Moyo districts, cash for work activities are ongoing (opening of 5.7 km access roads, maintenance of 10 km of access road, digging of 5 rubbish pits, cleaning of 1 biometric center and rehabilitation of persons with special needs houses) followed by payment of 1649 cash for work beneficiaries once completed. In Yumbe district, training of selected committees for enterprise development.

#### UNICEF

ECHO Mission on Education in Emergencies in early December 2017

ECHO mission on Nutrition in emergencies in January 2018

The launch Violence Against Children Survey at National and Regional level in 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2018

Launch of Education in Emergency Response plan in January 2018.

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