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Uganda

Situation Report

Refugees, Disease Outbreaks and Natural Hazards

Situation Reporting Period – 1 to 31 March 2017

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Highlights

- Uganda hosts 1,139,374 refugees and asylum seekers; of these, 816,041 are from South Sudan, 219,315 are from DRC and 44,581 are from Burundi. More than half of the refugee population (58 per cent) are children.
- The arrival rate of South Sudanese refugees into Uganda is still high with an average daily arrival of 2,180 people since July 2016 (a total of 575,983 arrivals in the last 9 months). Bidibidi settlement alone is reportedly hosting over 270,000 refugees, and now is the largest settlement in Africa.
- The Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) secretariat has formally been established on 24 March under the patronage of the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM). The Secretariat will enhance the collaboration among the Government, UN Agencies, World Bank, private sector and development partners in planning and implementing of the Refugees and Host Population Empowerment (ReHoPE) strategy. The OPM role will be critical in coordinating line ministries and District Local Government (DLG) to support the integration of humanitarian and development practices in basic service delivery.
- Rains have started in most areas of Uganda, allowing land preparation and planting. In Karamoja, rains have been intermittent with limited planting and benefiting grazing land only.
- The Ministry of Agriculture has confirmed an Army Worm infestation which started in the central region and now in over 20 districts, including Karamoja. The worms attack cereals and may considerably reduce yields (up to 80 per cent of crop harvest).
- Movements across the border with Kenya continue in Karamoja (Kaabong Amudat, Nakapiripirit) as people move to local communities to get food from villages and settle closer to water points.

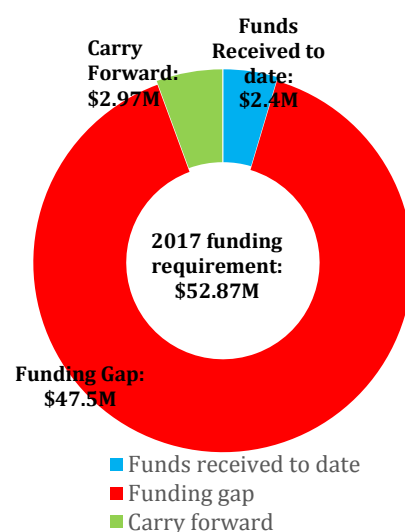
447,646
Refugee children (<18 years) from South Sudan
(OPM and UNHCR reports as of 27 March 2017)

131,589
Refugee Children (<18 years) from DRC
(OPM and UNHCR as of 28 February 2017)

26,749
Refugee children from Burundi
(OPM and UNHCR as of 28 February 2017)

UNICEF Appeal 2017
US\$ 52.87 million required
Funding Gap 90%

Funding Status



*Funds available include funding received against the 2017 appeal as well as US\$ 2.97 carried forward from 2016.

UNICEF Response with partners

Indicator	UNICEF Targets 2017	UNICEF Cumulative Results*
Number of people accessing safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	530,000	105,990
Number of children and adolescents accessing formal or informal education	179,800	66,764
Number of children immunised against Measles	1,023,000	44,476
Number of children/adolescents requiring continuation of ART in humanitarian situation	9,000	424
Number of unaccompanied and/or separated children receiving appropriate alternative care services	32,640	8,672

*Results as of 18 March 2017.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Refugees

According to UNHCR and the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), South Sudanese refugees arriving in Uganda continue to report general insecurity, limited access to food and basic services, violence, rape and abuse of women and girls, arbitrary detention, indiscriminate killing and destruction of property by armed forces as reasons for fleeing their homes. South Sudanese refugees indicate that due to insecurity they are unable to use the main roads to the border but they are rather forced to walk through the bush for several days, with few belongings and limited access to food, water and other needs.

New South Sudanese arrivals continue to be relocated to Imvepi settlement in Arua district. The settlement has an overall capacity of 100,000 people and is currently hosting 46,286 as of 28 March. Rhino camp has a global acute malnutrition (GAM) of 14.2 per cent, and is the settlement that has also received the largest burden of new arrivals. All of the camps show an improvement in their GAM rates (GAM rate of under 10 per cent with the exception of Rhino), particularly those in South Western Uganda.

With the ongoing rains and storms, temporary refugee settlement structures are being damaged and sometime destroyed. The OPM confirmed to all partners that low-cost semi-permanent structures are acceptable to quickly fill the gaps across settlements, while tents or other short-life structures may only be used as emergency shelter.

In the Education sector, challenges include overcrowding of Early Childhood Development (ECD) centers due to low coverage of services and facilities in various zones, and congestion in primary school classrooms. For example, the classroom / pupil ratio in Bidibidi settlement is 1:143, compared to the national standard of 1:53.

The Uganda Solidarity Summit on refugees and host communities was confirmed by the Government of Uganda, and will take place on 21-23 June 2017. This will start with the arrival of the UN Secretary General on 21 June, with field visits scheduled on 22 June and the actual Summit held on 23 June.

Food Security

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report released in January 2017 reported that 1.6 million people are food insecure. The recent Food Security and Nutrition Assessment (FSNA, December 2016) conducted by UNICEF, UNHCR and WFP indicates an overall stable and improved under five nutrition situation although there are hot spots that require close monitoring. High levels of stunting and anaemia are still observed in most of the assessed areas (i.e. the 24 most vulnerable districts).

Rains have started in most of the country, allowing land preparation. Although in Karamoja rains have been intermittent with limited planting so far; however these initial rains may have an immediate benefit on grazing land only, while crops will take their time.

The Ministry of Agriculture has confirmed an Army Worm infestation which started in the central region and now in over 20 districts, including Karamoja. The worms attack cereals and may considerably reduce yields (up to 80 per cent of crop harvest).

As a result of the drought in Kenya, continued population movements along the Uganda-Kenya border were reported in Kawakol and Lokori sub counties. In Amudat and Nakapiripirit, large numbers of people who crossed earlier are now congregating closer to water points.

Disease Outbreaks

Some 117 suspected cholera cases in Nebbi District were referred for examination and laboratory confirmation; however, the results confirmed that no cases were cholera. Nebbi was heavily affected by cholera outbreaks in the past seasons and remains on high alert, with continued Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach and activities.

By the end of March, there were outbreaks reported, although the number of malaria cases is still high in the health statistics, especially in the northern districts.

Humanitarian Strategy

UNICEF's humanitarian support to refugees in Uganda continues to be based on the long term ReHoPE framework. Through the Country Program, UNICEF supports the most vulnerable districts, including all refugee hosting districts, to support the expansion of social services for health, nutrition, WASH, education and child protection to reach both refugees and host communities. UNICEF employs a systems strengthening approach, building the adaptive and response capacity of districts affected by natural hazards and continues to support the government's emergency preparedness and response to mitigate the effects of disease outbreaks. UNICEF utilizes Communication for Development (C4D) as a cross-cutting approach to achieve programme results in all sectors.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

South Sudanese Refugees

During the reporting period, all refugee hosting districts continued to receive Ready to Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF), F100, F75 and RESOMAL based on needs. Distribution of supplies and stocks are monitored through the Supply End User Monitoring System (SEUMS). Arua district re-established nutrition coordination meetings and held the first meeting at the district headquarters on the 1 March 2017, with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), Medical Teams International (MTI), the District Health Office (DHO), UNHCR and CONCERN Worldwide in attendance. UNICEF, Concern Worldwide, District Health Teams and other partners continue to support medical and nutrition screening at active entry points of Kei and Kerwa (Yumbe district), Leforie in Moyo district, Elegu in Adjumani district, Ocea in Arua district, Kuluba and Busia at Koboko. A total of 36,588 children have been screened since January 2017 as well as 42,894 and 44,476 children have been immunised against Polio and measles respectively.

In coordination with Water Mission Uganda, UNICEF is motorizing the fourth system in zone 1, Bidibidi settlement to serve 6,000 people with safe water. The purpose of motorizing many high yielding boreholes in zone 1 is to eliminate water trucking which is quite expensive and to sustain the provision of water in the longer term. During the reporting period, all water systems in Adjumani (5), Kiryandongo (3) and Rhino Camp (3) registered good performance in terms of water production. With UNICEF support, nine out of ten boreholes for zone 3 have been completed. The average household latrine coverage in Bidibidi stands at 11 per cent while communal latrine coverage is 44 per cent only across Bidibidi settlement zones. Kiryandongo reported a household coverage of 79 per cent, Rhino Camp at 67 per cent and Adjumani at 59 per cent. During the reporting period, UNICEF and partners, the Danish Refugee Council and OXFAM reached 17,338 people (6,634 households or 5,642 male; 7,257 female; 2,129 boys; 2,310 girls) through hygiene promotion campaigns on safe excreta disposal, hand washing and safe water chains.

With UNICEF support, Plan Uganda facilitated access to ECD services to 25,150 children aged 3-5 years in the 30 settlements centers of Yumbe, Arua and Adjumani. Furthermore, 6 temporary ECD classrooms in two centers in Bidibidi have been repaired and are currently providing improved learning space for children. A total of 127,265 refugee children are enrolled in primary schools. 211 new teachers were recruited for schools in Bidibidi zones (3, 4, 5), bringing the total number of teachers in Bidibidi settlement Yumbe to 542. Registration of refugee children to primary leaving examinations is ongoing. At least 2,500 South Sudanese refugee pupils will be supported to sit for the Uganda Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE).

The Adolescent girls' programme implemented in partnership with the Danish Refugee Council in Maaji II and III in Adjumani has enrolled 100 girls of which 30 per cent have been from the host community. These girls are receiving support on life skills that include decision-making, communication, leadership and peer relations. Activities such as drama, poems and songs are also being used to reach out to the wider community on issues such as gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS.

In Yumbe, out of the 338 adolescent girls registered and being supported by Danish Refugee Council, 146 have returned to primary school in Bidibidi zone I and II. The accelerated learning programme, implemented by War Child Canada has kicked off in Adjumani and Yumbe with 24 teachers for both districts recruited and inducted, as well as 240 adolescent girls and boys have been registered and 80 school desks have been provided all with funding from UNICEF. In addition, 20 large tents have been delivered to War Child Canada to support adolescent

education in Adjumani, Yumbe and Palorinya settlements. 26 social networks have been established with each mentor working with 18 adolescent girls per group on life skills that include assertiveness, decision-making, communication, leadership, peer relations, among others. The networks have seen over 338 adolescent girls build their resilience with hope in life as per the various testimonies.

To ensure children have access to services, participate in development activities around the settlements and are free from abuse, World Vision International, Save the Children and Transcultural Psychosocial Organisation carried out 1,154 home visits to 595 boys and 559 girls. At least 41 cases of violence were identified (involving 18 boys and 23 girls) and either supported directly or referred for service provision. Child labour cases ranked high with 17 children, followed by child neglect with 14 cases, and physical violence with 11 cases. A total of 56,131 South Sudanese refugee children have access to psychosocial support. This is critical for children because it ensures their social well-being and recovery from trauma given the crisis back home.

Over 2,099 people (1,100 male, 999 female) were reached with parenting sessions targeting mothers, peer to peer support groups for children, psycho education sessions for all age groups and other child protection sessions to strengthen community capacity to identify, manage and refer cases of abuse.

Communications for Development (C4D): UNICEF continued to support airing of radio spots in different dialects (Dinka, Arabic, English, Aringa and Madi) in an effort to mobilize children to go back to school in South Sudan refugee hosting districts and as a result increase in enrolment will be realized for both formal and informal learning. Communities have been mobilised to participate in integrated child health days planned for April through radio spot messages.

Burundi and DRC Refugees

In coordination with Save the Children, UNICEF registered and provided appropriate support to 267 separated children and 255 unaccompanied. 123 children were reunified with relatives or fostered. UNICEF continued to actively engage children in recreation and play activities for example structural learning, alphabetical reading, storytelling, and drawing competitions and other related games at the child friendly space. This is done during indoor and outdoor games. The Child Protection Management Information System (CPMIS) has been rolled out amongst DRC refugees although it requires more training of the partner users.

Food Security

Initial food distribution by the Government of Uganda (GoU) reportedly reached 38 districts in Karamoja, Teso, Elgon, Central and West Nile, which were classified as phase 2 and 3 by the Government Food Security assessment (January 2017). It was recommended that any food aid must be coordinated within the established systems, with WFP and OPM. In Karamoja, specifically, food aid distribution by the GoU was addressed to extremely vulnerable individuals including those living with HIV and elderly (evidence of this in Amudat District), while WFP is activating the protective rations for households with MAM cases to counteract sharing of food rations because of increased levels of food insecurity.

UNICEF supports health and nutrition surveillance for early warning and is engaged in national level coordination within the National Disaster Risk Management platform and other fora on preparedness and response to the effects of the prolonged dry spell. Traditionally food insecure districts are part of the UNICEF targeted districts for multi-sector interventions spanning health, education, WASH, nutrition and child protection sectors. UNICEF works with the GoU in collaboration with partners (CUAMM in Karamoja, CONCERN and AVSI in northern Uganda) to provide broad nutrition support to at-risk districts as part of a health systems strengthening approach. Nutrition supplies continue to be monitored and replenished with support from an online real time End User Monitoring system.

Disease Outbreaks

In order to reduce the incidence of malaria, UNICEF and partner Malaria Consortium continue to support the national distribution of 5.2 million long lasting insecticide treated (LLIN) nets in 27 districts. These nets are part of the 24 million nets planned for distribution by the Ministry of Health and other partners.

The New Cholera guidelines supported by UNICEF and WHO were endorsed by the Ministry of Health in March and are being printed as MoH Prevention and control of “Cholera - Operational Guidelines for the National and District Health Workers and Planners”. This will help to standardize and institutionalize Cholera prevention in all districts across the country, which is increasingly vulnerable due to extensive population movements across borders, including large number of refugees.

Funding

UNICEF is grateful to all donors for their contributions to UNICEF Uganda, including the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and the Department for International Development (DFID), whose support to preparedness and response has, in addition to UNICEF core resources, supported timely humanitarian action to the renewed influx of refugees from South Sudan.

UNICEF’s 2017 Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal for Uganda is US\$ 52.87 million and to date US\$5.4 million has been received, leaving a funding gap of US\$47.5 million or 90 per cent. With the continued influx of refugees from South Sudan and other humanitarian needs in the country, especially food insecurity, UNICEF will not be able to meet the needs of children and women in humanitarian situations unless more funding is urgently made available.

2017 Funding Requirements (as defined in the Humanitarian Action for Children appeal for 2017)				
Appeal Sector	2017 HAC Requirement (US\$)*	Funds Available (US\$)**	Funding gap	
			US\$	%
Nutrition	6,700,000	900,123	5,799,877	87%
Health	10,385,000	1,067,957	9,317,043	90%
Water, sanitation & hygiene	12,210,000	1,610,614	10,599,386	87%
Child Protection	13,061,000	1,412,755	11,648,245	89%
Education	9,113,000	365,001	8,747,999	96%
HIV and AIDS	1,401,000	45,276	1,355,724	97%
Total	52,870,000	5,401,727	47,468,273	90%

*The requirement for sector coordination costs has been included in sub-costs for Nutrition, Health, WASH, Child Protection, Education and HIV/AIDS.

**Funds available include funding received against the current appeal as well as carry forward funds from the previous year (approximately US\$2,968,190).

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Annex 1

SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME RESULTS (as of 18 March 2017)

	UNICEF and IPs	
	2017 Targets	Cumulative Results
NUTRITION		
Number of children under 5 years admitted for SAM treatment	31,000	450
Number of children aged 6 to 59 months receiving vitamin A supplementation	446,395	27,635
Number of pregnant women receiving folic acid	345,000	2,537
EDUCATION		
Number of children and adolescents accessing formal or informal education	179,800	66,764
HEALTH		
Number of children aged 6 months to 15 years vaccinated against measles	1,023,000	44,476
WASH		
Number of people accessing safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	530,000	105,990
Number of people with access to appropriate sanitation facilities	318,000	33,804
HIV/AIDS		
Number of children/adolescents requiring continuation of ART in humanitarian situation	9,000	424
CHILD PROTECTION		
Unaccompanied and/or separated children receiving appropriate alternative care services	32,640	8,672