

Japan Platform

Evaluation

Final Report

South Sudanese Refugee Response Programme in Uganda
&
Emergency Assistance for DRC Refugees in Uganda



Prepared by JPF Monitoring and Evaluation Team



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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Japan Platform (hereafter JPF) organized field evaluation visits to 4 member partners, namely; Association for Aid and Relief Japan, Peace Winds Japan and Save the Children Japan; aiming to verify that project funds were being used according to the proposals; verify that humanitarian standards were being respected; understand beneficiary satisfaction; analyze the impact of the projects, and provide/gain feedback towards the project improvement through mutual learning. To this end, the JPF evaluation team visited seven (7) project sites located in both northern and western parts of Uganda where South Sudanese and Congolese Refugee Responses were ongoing. The JPF monitoring team was comprised of Fatuma Arinaitwe, Richard Kica and Jimmy Oriba

The start of evaluation of the JPF projects across the country involved review of project documents. These documents had been made available with the help of JPF operations teams and JPF partners. Some of the key documents reviewed included initial fixed monitoring plan/schedule agreed between JPF and Partners, google translated business plans and reports. The projects were coming to an end largely by March 25th, 2021. The monitoring team reviewed business plans, reports and response plans to develop further specific field work related products such as: Mission itinerary, JPF/partners agreed field agenda and general evaluation checklists.

Data was collected through: holding of update meetings with the respective in country project team/staff; Key Informant Interviews (here after KII) with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (here after UNHCR), Refugee Government agencies at settlement/camp level; Focus Group Discussion (here after FGD) with community leaders, facilitators, volunteers, and direct beneficiaries; Household visits for the selected beneficiaries in the target area and observation of key project components/activities. The relevant activities, KII and FGD focal participants had already been identified in collaboration with JPF partners in advance during crafting of field agenda. The field work/process was kept flexible to allow for snow-balling as time and logistics allowed.

Each project was visited for 3 days due to the scale of activities and availability of time. A qualitative result update on project specific components is provided in each partner's report while a quantitative results matrix is available in the annex 5 section of this final report.

All the five (5) projects were evaluated in terms of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, sustainability and core humanitarian standards. The seven (7) project reports were shared with respective partners for clarification, correction and mutual consent. To achieve this, after the field mission online meetings and email collaboration were undertaken between the projects teams and JPF evaluation team for the draft reports feedback and finalization.

In general, the South Sudanese and Congolese refugee response projects were in line with the needs of the people/beneficiaries, the relevant response guiding documents; including the Refugee Response Plan (RRP-2019-20), Sector National Development Plans and aligned to the location



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specific sector gaps matrices. Through a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the government of Uganda and coordinating bodies (UNHCR & OPM), partners were able to deliver project deliverables as per plan except for the intervening factors like presidential elections and Covid-19 lock down that resulted into non cost extension for almost all projects except for AARJ _SSD project.

Visits were conducted to both refugee settlements and Transit centers and each center/settlement had some kind of standard operating procedures and plans agreed upon at sector level. Partners had some flexibility in terms of the operation processes for better results, much as in some cases resources ended up not being evenly distributed due to concentration of partners in one location.

The monitoring and evaluation team noted significant positive project impacts some of which turned out unintended, and also, made recommendations on areas of improvement for better project results. Key among them was the need for continued response by AARJ in Imvepi focusing on identification and support to children with disabilities due to the fact that the settlement population was expanding as a result of new Congolese influx that was being settled in Omugo zone 4 and the fact that the Sudanese caseload had only been identified with no much support given to CWDs. It was also noted that due to Covid-19 lock down, AARJ SSD had adopted to new methods of implementation among which was the radio programming in Palorinya settlement that led to increased awareness on inclusive education and children with disabilities, exposure to the outside world and career ideas and as well led to a family reunification.

For the Congolese response, AARJ-DRC was advised to also integrate inclusive education in its response with a special focus on the girl child, as they were being marginalized when it came to education and the norm was being worsened by the limited access to secondary education. For effective response. Provision of teachers' accommodation, text books, desks and classroom blocks somehow improved the teaching and learning environment in Maratatu PS in Kyangwali settlement.

In Omugo, PWJ had provided shelter to 21 families with persons with specific needs, however, the evaluation noted the need for PWJ to engage the beneficiaries in O&M of the structures provided and strengthen the referral pathway for cross cutting issues.

In Kyaka II, PWJ improved Buliti water supply plant from diesel driven plant to a hybrid plant (solar with generator back-up) by installing 152 solar panels on 4 strings of 275 watts each panel able to produce total DC power of 41800watts i.e. 41.8kw. The panels are expected to operate at 75%efficiency, hence supplying the pump of 30KW with 31.35KW. The solarisation of Buliti water pumping station resulted in immediate operational cost reduction in term of fuel required for running the generator for water pumping but an increase in water access was yet to be determined.

In Rwamwanja Settlement, SCJ implemented a youth programme aimed at skilling the youth in age and contextually appropriate areas. The youth who completed mentorship programmes under JPF2 need further mentorship as they had just started their business operations. This can be factored into JPF3 funding that has been approved and it imperative to sustain results achieved



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already by working on what is planned in the future given the challenges faced during the period of implementation.

All JPF member partners were advised to strengthen coordination by attending relevant coordination meetings and by holding inception and end of project meetings with partners to ensure accountability, respond to the relevant needs of the beneficiaries and report in line with the indicator requirements of the coordinating agencies. For all projects that have been implemented by JPF partners, there's need to assess long term impact by the projects such as the senior woman teachers office/changing room for girls implemented by PWJ, the CFS /case management interventions implemented by SCJ and Plan International.

One of the outstanding sustainable approaches employed by all member partners in delivering and achieving project outcomes was through putting beneficiaries at the forefront of implementation. This was especially reflected in the child protection systems strengthening approach by Save the Children; which proactively brought the district officials on board. The capacity building for community structures by AARJ, PLAN Japan, SCJ and PWJ created a sense of ownership of the projects

Overall, given the dwindling funding situation as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic, all partners need to consider widening their funding sources through advocacy campaigns, as well as create synergies with other partners (in case of limited funding), so as to continue contributing to the multi-sectoral access to services by targeted beneficiaries.

For JPF

UNHCR noted that there was less done by JPF in terms of monitoring at implementation stages and recommended that JPF carries out frequent monitoring for partner projects so as to appreciate the end line. That there's a need for flexibility to targeted or earmarked funding in order to meet the objectives of the project. Partners are also encouraged to be multi responsive and be active in referral of protection cases for support.



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2. AARJ_DRC PROJECT EVALUATION REPORT

Project summary

Program name	Congolese Refugees' Emergency Support 2020 (First response period, emergency response period)				
Project	Education Assistance in Democratic Republic of Congolese Refugee Settlements, Western Uganda				
Start date	April 3, 2020	End date	October 31, 2020 (Non-cost extended to January 31, 2021)	Days	213 Days
Organization name	Association of Aid and Relief Japan (AARJ)		Contact name	Yuko Goto	

Introduction

Japan Platform undertook an evaluation visit to AARJ, a JPF member partner implementing education assistance project in Kyangwali refugee settlement in Kikuube district, Western Uganda from February 18 to 22, 2021. The visit focused on verifying whether the humanitarian principles and standards were being respected; understanding beneficiary satisfaction; analyzing the impact of the project with the available data and establishing the extent of objectives outcome achievement at the end of the project implementation period. The M&E team composed of Arinaitwe Fatuma (Protection, Education & M&E) and Kica Richard Ocaya (M&E, WASH, Protection, Health & Education).

Context

Kyangwali refugee settlement in Western Uganda started in the early 1960s to host Rwandese refugees. To date, the settlement hosts 122,887 refugees (76% of which are children and women –UNHCR Update as of January 2021) on a 146 square kilometer land. Most of the refugees currently in the settlement are Congolese. The settlement however is having the challenge of encroachment on its land which is reducing the actual size dedicated for use by refugee. If the government could reclaim land from encroachers, the land size could add up to about 156sqkm. Land size distribution to persons of concern depends on the household size but it ranges between 30x30 meters to 50x100 meters. The population is largely agricultural and settled on 6 zones. There are 37 partners providing services across the sectors of WASH, Education, Protection, Environment, Construction and Health, and the settlement is still actively receiving refugees except for the current closure of border entry points due to Covid-19 pandemic. Border monitoring is however ongoing and a key informant from UNHCR indicated that asylum seekers will be screened by OPM for possible asylum in Kyangwali or else be sent to Nakivale settlement for further screening and admission.



Project Background

AARJ implemented an education assistance project in Kyangwali settlement for refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo which started 2 months later than the projected start date due to a number of challenges ranging from Covid-19 and bad roads. The project had one component hinged on construction of 3 classroom blocks and 8 units of teachers accommodation, training of school management committee, provision of desks and chairs to Maratatu primary school, and the other component focusing on procurement and distribution of teaching and learning materials to 9 primary schools.

Methodology

This section presents the evaluation design and strategy, study population and respondents, sample size, sampling methods, and data collection, processing and analysis.

Research design and strategy: the evaluation applied a *qualitative method* with a *cross-sectional design* as a strategy. Qualitative design collected narratives that were used to answer the evaluation questions. The cross-sectional design ensured the collection of data from the identified respondents at only one point in time to answer the evaluation questions.

Study population and respondents: The evaluation population and the respondents were refugees/or host community living in Kyangwali refugee settlement in Kikuube district, Western Uganda. Respondents were selected from both the refugees and stakeholders involved with the refugee response in the settlement.

Sample selection and size: The respondents were sampled purposively. This involved the selection of respondents based on their status as a refugee/host community and being in the location targeted by the project, and also being a stakeholder relevant to the project and the education sector. A total of 39 respondents were covered by the assessment. Full list is attached in the Annex.

Data collection, processing and analysis: The data for the assessment was collected using an unstructured questionnaire, focus group discussion and observation. The data was processed through re-writing and editing, and analysed through content and thematic methods.

Implementation Status

At the time of the visit (18th to 22nd February 2021), implementation of most activities had been completed except for the default rectification that was ongoing for the structures constructed in Maratatu Primary school. These works were taking advantage of the retention period agreed upon between AARJ and the contractors. The project had maximized the non-cost extension period provided due to Covid 19 outbreak in Kyangwali settlement.

During the previous monitoring visit in November 2020, a number of recommendations were proposed to improve the quality of implementation. Below are the recommendations and the status at the time of the current visit.



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Recommendation: AARJ conducted capacity building activities with the school management committee and PTA, however, similar or related trainings had been done by other partners according to the teachers. It also emerged that although the training were similar, there were variation in the content as 25 out of 30 participants confirmed that they have not participated in a similar training. It is therefore recommended that partners activity detailed work plan highlighting the content of trainings be shared at working group level in order to avoid potential duplication and take advantage of the existing synergies in the future.

Status: Discussions with AARJ and WIU as well as UNHCR indicated an acknowledgement on gaps in activity coordination to which they noted the importance of sharing activity plans in detail and participating in similar partner scheduled activities.

Recommendation: AARJ should strengthen their monitoring and evaluation system to ensure effective and timely tracking of project outputs and outcomes. This is essential in ensuring attribution of the project outcomes given the various partners engaged in similar undertaking in the settlement.

Status: AARJ indicated that a project design matrix which is pre-requisite for JPF funding is used as a monitoring and evaluation framework. AARJ does not have internal data tracking template. If required, AARJ needs to develop an internal data tracking template.

Recommendation: The funding gap in education quality and access remains big in Kyangwali settlement especially in secondary school, as well as in improving primary education standards due to the overwhelming numbers enrolled. AARJ is advised to continue fundraising even from individual sources whose funds are more flexible.

Status: This remains a gap in Kyangwali and especially in secondary education where there's only one secondary school being fed by about 33 primary schools in the settlement. AARJ managed to secure some funding to increase on girl child access to education

Recommendation: Other areas that could be considered for strengthening and venturing could be activities that mainstream child protection in education such as MHM and CWD; putting gender into considerations. The AARJ project team confirmed that this was already being considered for future project which will focus on three refugee communities and girls education clubs in three schools.

Status: Ongoing with a project on support to girl child education in school and communities.

Other recommendations that were noted:

1. A national level coordination for JPF member partners could be encouraged and used as a platform for learning new strategies to challenges faced during implementation and sharing progress updates and lessons where needed across sectors.



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2. There's need for donor flexibility in cases where two partners acquired funding for the same activity. This will help in reducing duplication and addressing actual needs on ground as per the moment in time as long as it contributes to the achievement of the bigger picture (outcome) of the response plan objectives

Implementing challenges

- The cracks that developed on the floors for the already completed classroom blocks and teachers accommodation were partly attributed to the nature of the soil in Kyangwali and negligence of the contractor in not allotting enough time to cure the floor.
- Limited time frame: End of contract for the engineer by 31st January, 2021 could not allow for technical supervision to the corrective actions that were being taken by the contractor except from other partner engineers having similar activities in the same school.
- The presidential election week also put to a halt some activities for fear of violence that was expected to happen and for people to exercise their voters' rights.

Project evaluation framework (Key findings)

The evaluation exercise utilized the OECD-DAC framework¹ of Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact and Sustainability. The matrix below summarises the findings under each of the framework elements.

Evaluation Criteria	M&E team Observations and suggestions for project improvement
Relevance	<p>The team assessed the project relevance in line with the existing national and international guiding tools and policies relevant to humanitarian response. This established the extent to which the intervention activities suited the priorities and policies of the government of Uganda, refugee/host communities, AARJ and the donor agency (Japan Platform). The project was found to be <i>highly relevant</i>, considering the following observations;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The national education sector plan in alignment with the Education response plan for host and refugee communities' main objective is to provide girls and boys with equitable and inclusive access to a quality education and to strengthen systems at the national, district and community levels. It aims at increasing learners and quality of learning in primary and secondary schools by increasing the absorption capacity and embracing double shifts. The response plan 2019/2020 also encourages enhancement of school based governance structures such as the SMC in order to help monitor quality teaching and learning at school level. In regard to this, AARJ has supported the construction of 9 classrooms in Maratatu primary school and built the capacity of the PTA, SMC, SMT and SWT to operate and maintain school facilities while promoting school -parent operation.

¹ <http://www.oecd.org/dac/>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current intervention is based on the June 2019 & Feb 2020 partner responses and household survey findings by AARJ which formed the proposal. In addition, the education lead partner WTU confirmed that they share gaps at coordination level which are picked up by different partners and once funds are acquired, allocation of partners is done. • Similarly, the location of the project hardware component at Maratatu Primary School is equally relevant. According to UNHCR, Maratatu has 2 zones with about 30 villages, and has the highest population of about 90,000 compared to other zones in the settlement, giving it a wider catchment area to increase learners in school. • In addition, the project design was found to be suitable for the objective outcomes and outputs intended to be achieved in that the design was transformational as focused majorly improving the teachers and other education stakeholder’s capacity and improving the learning environment.
<p>Effectiveness</p>	<p>Measured the extent to which the project attained the intended objectives. This emphasized objective targets and indicators by comparing baseline/targets status with the current status. The project had two components; creating a more accessible school environment and improving the quality of learning, and strengthening school management system. The subsequent sub- sections presents the findings.</p> <p>Component 1 Outcome: Create a more accessible school environment and improve quality of learning.</p> <p>1-1 Construction of 3 blocks of 3 Classrooms-Primary school in Maratatu Primary School (to enroll 6436)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently Maratatu primary school has enrolled 7097 (3077 boys and 3390 girls) pupils, however this cannot yet be attributed to the contribution made by AARJ in terms of structures because schools are still closed except for the 22 primary 7 pupils. Important to note however is that this contribution will improve access to and quality of education at Maratatu primary school as it increased the number of classroom units from 29 to 38 (from 10 blocks to 13 blocks); thus getting a number of pupils absorbed into classrooms than before. • The classroom blocks were equipped with wheelchair ramps accessible to children living with disabilities, though the parents raised an issue concerning provision of specialized teaching for children living with other disabilities such as visual and hearing impairment. • In addition, the education lead partner indicated that strong negative social norms towards girls and children living with disabilities and their access to social services by the parents still exist in the population. • The average pupil classroom ratio will improve from 245:1 to 187:1 per class which is still way above the national pupil classroom ratio of 45:1.

1-2: Construct 12 Teachers Accommodation units in Maratatu Primary School (for 12trs).

- Instead of construction of 12 accommodation units for teachers, AARJ constructed 2 blocks of 4 units each and due to the limited resources, at least 47 teachers currently sleeping in classrooms will be accommodated in these units (16 rooms) in order to create learning space for learners. It is important to note that each unit (2roomed with bathroom) is meant for 1 teacher but shall be occupied by approximately 4 teachers depending on gender. It was also noted from the district engineer's recommendations that the teachers' houses required an extended shade - as a standard, which wasn't provided and thus requires future consideration since no kitchen space exists.
- A qualified civil engineering company (Lujong United Ltd) was contracted through a bidding process for the construction of classrooms and did a fairly good job, however, some doors could not lock well and all the floors were not cured enough to prevent splitting thus renovation works were being done under the district engineer's recommendation. Partner was advised to use Terrazzo or tiles for the floor in future constructions, which also has budget implications, and for this project, it would cost approximately 8,333\$ extra.

1-3: Distribution of textbooks and curriculum guides to 9 primary schools for teachers to facilitate the process of teaching (to benefit 20,573 pupils, 63 teachers)

- AARJ conducted a text books gaps analysis in consultation with subject teachers together with the office of Deputy Headteacher including the librarian; with aim to reveal and improve the pupil to text book ratio and the availability of subject specific text books in the 9 primary schools and supplied exactly the books that were needed by the schools. However, FGD with pupils indicated that they had not been involved in the selection of books required for purchase due to the Covid-19 lockdown, and thus, they remained with gaps in accessing certain books like dictionaries and atlases among others. A total number of 7517 textbooks and teachers' guides were given to 9 schools according to their priority list acquired from the pre-survey, however the schools indicated that they still needed gap filling in certain subjects/areas. Whereas the project intended to provide a book for each pupil, the current overall enrolment average access to text book pupil ratio stands at 1 book to 3.5 pupils in Kyangwali RS because there are limited number of books per subject despite the big purchase and complementarity from other partners like WIU, SCI and CRS moreover some other text books have no teachers guide by default from the manufactures, thus making it difficult for lesson preparation.
- The pupils also raised an issue of lighting for the school to allow them access and read books even after classes.

Component 2 Outcome: Strengthening school management system

	<p>2-1: Conducting capacity-building training to SMC, PTA, SMT, SWT in Maratatu Primary School (<u>26ppl</u>- including 12 SMC, 12 PTA, 1 SMT and 1 SWT from the school – for 5 days)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement of SMT and SWT in the trainings made them to be recognized as part of the management team and can now be delegated some administrative responsibilities in the absence of one or two school heads. <p>2-2: provide 171 sets of desks and chairs to the school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 9 classroom blocks and each of them was furnished with 18 pupils’ desks, a teacher’s table and chair with an aim of creating an enabling teaching and learning environment. In total, 162 desks for pupils, 9 tables and 9 chairs for teachers were issued out to Maratatu primary school. A pupil teacher ratio of 54:1 is the ideal target, while 45:1 is the standard, however due to the high enrolment and limited classrooms at Maratatu primary school an average of 81:1 is achievable thus each desk will accommodate at least 4-5pupils in a situation where there’s enough classrooms, otherwise with the existing classrooms, the ratio will stand at 187:1 and two teachers for each class at a time. <p>Overall, the project was able to achieve the output targets for the different components of the intervention. The quality of these outputs are to the minimum expected standards in the original project design and should be able to go a long way in achieving the expected outcomes.</p>
<p>Efficiency</p>	<p>Measured the value for money of the intervention by comparing the volume of resources utilized during the intervention and the outputs achieved. <i>Overall the project can be considered as efficient in achieving the intended outputs within the available financial and human resources.</i> However, time efficiency can be considered as poor as more period than the original 7 months was required. This was mainly due to Covid-19 pandemic and bad road due to heavy rain that impeded construction work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant books were procured and supplied to different schools, however, the schools didn’t have enough storage space in terms of shelves. In some schools, books were being kept with maize flour and beans which might attract rodents that might destroy the books. Moreover, UNHCR through WIU distributed two text books per subject per class per school including NCDC study materials which if not well coordinated, there might occur an uneven distribution of the scarce resources. • The project started 2 months later after kick off of the project and one of the reasons is that Kyangwali settlement was hit by Covid19 and over 60 humanitarian workers were reported having contracted the virus; so AARJ staff had to work from home and conduct remote monitoring which made it hard to ensure quality standards at the beginning whose defects were later reflected in the works after completion and end of contracts for some staff.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project was scheduled to end on 31st January, 2021, however due to defects that developed after flooring classrooms and teachers quarters, the corrective actions on the structures were being done in February 2021 and in the absence of the project engineer whose contract had ended with the project life. For technical support, the project was relying on other like-minded partners' project engineers like Save the Children and those from UNHCR - the coordinating agency. Other than monitoring, no other costs were incurred by AARJ to renovate the structures.
<p>Impact</p>	<p>Examined the positive/negative, direct/indirect, and intended/unintended effects of the intervention results on the local social, economic, environmental and other development dimensions. <i>Overall, the project outputs are highly capable of producing positive outcomes in improving teaching and learning environment in the schools in the settlement.</i> Below are some of the positive impact identified at the time of the visit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The teachers have a variety of textbooks to search from and compare notes while in preparations for lessons and thus are able to provide quality lessons filled with knowledge. Teachers have a descent sleeping space compared to sleeping in class, which provides for some privacy compared to when they sleep in the classroom. More so, teachers will have more time to prepare for lessons as opposed to pupils who indicated that they are now the ones being late for classes due to long trekking distances and lack of residential services at the school. The pupils were excited about being able to always access a book whenever they need it as compared to before when one had to wait for a book to access the same book. Teachers indicated that they came from “nothing to something” and that they were no longer borrowing text books from the neighboring schools. Overall, the pupil-text book ratio has improved in benefiting Schools. For example, in Kentoni primary school, the ratio improved from 1:100 to 1:60. There’s a likelihood that more pupils will enroll into the school once it fully reopens, however, this will increase pressure on the existing limited resources i.e. teachers, classrooms, books, desks among others. Having trained the SWT and SMT in MHM, they were able to train 10 girls and 10boys in each village of Maratatu zone in making of reusable pads which in turn increased demand of sanitary wear at school and as well strengthened relationships between the SWT/SMT with the respective gender through open communication and discussions about reproductive health.

<p>Sustainability</p>	<p>Assessed whether the benefits of the project achieved so far are likely to continue after the end of implementation of project activities. The project ensured / was to ensure the following measures to guarantee sustaining the positive outcome achieved and continue to accrue from the outputs achieved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The team noted that if the books were to be kept longer by the schools, the following things have to be taken into consideration; partners should provide shelves where possible as a package to providing text books; the school can engage PTA and SMC to improvise shelves for the text books. • For longer life of floors, the district engineer of Kikube was going to issue out a circular directing partners to tile or use terrazzo for floors instead of cement which cracks and has a shorter life span. • The project handover/commissioning was done in the presence of the district engineer, UNHCR, OPM, and WIU to ensure continuity. • Having trained the SMC, PTA SWT and SMT on their roles and responsibilities in the management of the school, there's hope that these parties can and are coordinate/coordinating to accomplish basic tasks required for the day to day running of the school. • In groups of tens per village, children were taught how to make reusable sanitary pads and these will go a long way in keeping girls in school.
<p>Core Humanitarian Standards</p>	<p>Humanitarian intervention is guided by four core principles, which are humanity, impartiality, independence and neutrality. These principles are operationalized by nine (9) standards on quality and accountability. Overall, the evaluation did not identify any noticeable infringement of these principles in the course of the implementation of the project. UNHCR And OPM noted that AARJ closely coordinate activities with the partners in the settlement and also participate in the sector working group meetings and activities.</p>

Recommendations

The following recommendations are proposed to guide the remaining period (extended period) of implementation and any other similar or planned intervention in Kyangwali refugee settlement.

1. Just like the structures, the distributed textbooks needed to bare both the funding and implementing partner logos for visibility. The text book distributed only has the branding for AARJ and not JPF. AARJ is advised to keep communication lines open with JPF when it comes to issues of branding.
2. Taking lessons from AARJ SSD project on inclusive education, there's need to have a sensitization component on inclusive education with the community members to end negative social norms that affect the girl child in the Congolese caseload; a time bomb awaits to go off with the so many primary dropouts due to limited access to secondary education combined with negative social norms associated with the girl child education.



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3. There is a need for AARJ to develop a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation indicator tracking system. This will help in tracking project outputs and related outcomes accruing from these outputs in the targeted population. In addition, AARJ was requested by UNHCR to share weekly and monthly reports – cumulative in order not to miss out on the sector updates dashboard. Data remains one of the strongest evidence bases required for funds mobilization.
4. According to the OPM, AARJ is advised to set up an office in the settlement instead of the project team commuting from Hoima city. Construction of a small office within Kyangwali will improve on coordination and supervision of project activities, and reduce the cost of transport which will release more resources for other project activities.
5. OPM has fully activated the Uganda refugee response monitoring system -a government monitoring tool to which the partners upload work plans, location, funding amount, duration and activities. This system started this year 2021 and every partner will be required to fill it in and provide quarterly updates; failure to do so for two quarters, the partner will be disengaged and locked out. AARJ is advised to comply.
6. Conduct detailed project inception and end of project implementation meetings with relevant stakeholders to ensure active participation and ownership of the project and strengthen accountability. This will also strengthen follow up by other stakeholders after the phase-out of the project, which is essential in ensuring sustainability.
7. Strengthen coordination with partners through sharing detailed activity plans and ensuring involvement in activity implementation to ensure a fair distribution of support to the schools and zones while ensuring complementarity and saving resources to serve the communities most in need.

Overall Assessment and Conclusion

Overall, in spite of the challenges of Covid – 19 and bad weather that caused delay in implementation, the intervention is considered to have achieved the intended objective outcomes as indicated by the achievement of the output targets in construction, training, and procurement and distribution of text books. Also numerous measures were ensured in the course of implementation of the activities to ensure sustainability of the outcomes. Worth noting however is the fact that much as positive outcomes are derived from this project, there are still overwhelming need to ensure education sector meet the minimum standards required to teaching and learning. The partner is therefore advised to implement the recommendations to further improve its response operations in the settlement.



3. AARJ_SSD PROJECT REPORT

Project summary

Program name	South Sudan Refugee Emergency Assistance (Initial Response Period, Emergency Response Period)				
Project	Education Assistance for South Sudanese in Refugee Settlements, Northern Uganda (JPF6)				
Start date	March 31 st , 2020	End date	January 31 st , 2021	Days	307 days
Organization name	Association of Aid and Relief, Japan (AAR Japan)		Contact name	Kensuke Ninomiya	

Introduction and Evaluation Purpose

As part of its mandate and responsibility, Japan Platform (JPF) conducted an evaluation visit to AARJ, a member partner in January, 2021 in Imvepi and Palorinya refugee settlements project locations to verify whether the humanitarian principles and standards were being respected by the project at different implementation stages; understand beneficiary satisfaction; analyze the impact of the project with the available data; provide technical advice and feedback to the project improvement; and identify additional technical assistance and other resources that may be needed. The M&E team composed of two members, namely; Arinaitwe Fatuma (Protection, Education & M&E) and Kica Richard Ocaya (M&E, WASH, Protection, health & education); presents the report findings in line with the purpose of the visit and JPF commitments for people in humanitarian crises.

Contextual Background

AARJ education program for South Sudan refugee response was implemented in two separate refugee settlements, i.e. Palorinya and Imvepi. Palorinya settlement was reopened in December 2016 for hosting refugees from South Sudan after the mass refugee inflow in the same year. As of Feb 2021 UNHCR data, Palorinya settlement hosts 123,132 people and 80%² of these are women and children. Its population increase is evident in the new births while others come from other settlements for a reunion with family. Palorinya is a multi-ethnic settlement with Bari tribe being the majority. The settlement land is 45 km² spread over 5 zones and occupied by persons of concern. A household is settled on a 20 by 30 meters plot. At least 29 partners are serving across all sectors

² <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/85483>



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and education, in particular, has 6 partners which include; Finn Church Aid (FCA), Windle International Uganda (WIU), CRS, Save the Children, Humanity and Inclusion (HI), and AARJ.

According to OPM, Imvepi settlement was opened around 1993 - 1994 to South Sudanese refugees and closed in 2003 after taking the few remaining persons of concern to Rhino Camp settlement. When the South Sudan war started again in late 2012, Imvepi reopened on February 21, 2017, and since then it has not stopped receiving new arrivals. By the time of the visit, despite the closed borders, the OPM reported having received 20 new arrivals in one night and indicated that had it not been for Covid19 border restrictions, the number of arrivals would be overwhelmingly big each day due to instability in Congo. The OPM also indicated that with directive from the minister for disaster and humanitarian affairs with guidance from the president, a new zone 4 had been created for Congolese coming in through Zombo district and now the zone hosts 895 (368 households) persons of concern. According to UNHCR data for February 2021, Imvepi RS population is currently headed to 70,000 persons i.e. 68463³ and children are 52% and between 45% to 55% are of school-going age (ECD to Secondary school). The new UNHCR guidelines on land distribution apportion 30 by 50 meters though currently, every household in Imvepi gets 50 by 50 meters from the available land measuring 52 km². The OPM noted that leaving children with disabilities (CWDs) out on social activities causes trauma but thanked AARJ for engaging with this category of the population Humanity and Inclusion (HI) has also supported children with disabilities (CWDs) in Zone 2 and 3 but only focuses on physical impairment. ZOA has also tried to support pupils with hearing impairment in 8 schools, leaving pupils with similar issues as well as eye problems in other schools unattended to. Other partners in Education include; Windle International Uganda (WIU) which is also a UNHCR implementing partner in primary education.

Project Background

Between March 31st 2020 to January 31st 2021, a 10 months project on Education Assistance for South Sudanese Refugees was implemented by AARJ in Palorinya and Imvepi Refugee settlements. This was the 6th phase of JPF funding to AARJ for project implementation in Northern Uganda refugee settlements of Imvepi, Bidibidi and Palorinya. Two components were divided among the two settlements each taking one and major focus was on creating an enabling environment for children with disabilities through engaging children, parents and community leaders in the implementation phase.

Component 1 aimed at promoting healthy growth and mutual understanding of pupils and this was implemented to 12 primary and secondary schools in Palorinya settlement. Under this component, activities were mainly conducted through child rights clubs established in schools such as the radio performers club. Radio programs were delivered to the community on inclusive education and COVID-19 prevention and the clubs were engaged in mask making through a complimentary approach using AARJ internal funding.

Component 2 aimed at Promoting inclusive education and support for CWDs; this was implemented in Imvepi settlement: Activities under this component were targeted towards building the capacity of the refugee welfare committee members to facilitate parent support groups and

³ ibid



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create awareness about CWDs. In addition, a needs assessment for CWDs was conducted to enable for relevant specialized support by partners through direct or referral support. In Palorinya settlement, AARJ implemented inclusive education club activities in 9 primary schools out of 33 and 1 secondary school out of 6. Other partners like ZOA, HI and WIU work complementary to AARJ efforts towards CWDs.

Evaluation Methodology

This section presents the evaluation design and strategy, study population and respondents, sample size, sampling methods, and data collection, processing and analysis.

Research design and method: the evaluation applied a *qualitative method* with a *cross-sectional design* as a strategy. Qualitative design collected narratives that were used to answer the evaluation questions. The cross-sectional design ensured the collection of data from the identified respondents at only one point in time to answer the evaluation questions.

Study population and respondents: The evaluation population and the respondents were refugees/or host community living in Palorinya and Imvepi refugee settlements in Obongi and Terego districts respectively. Respondents were selected from both the refugees/host communities and stakeholders involved with the refugee response in the settlements.

Sample selection and size: The respondents were sampled purposively. This involved the selection of respondents based on their status as a refugee/host community and being in the location targeted by the project, and also being a stakeholder relevant to the project and the education sector. A total of 33 respondents were covered by the assessment. Full list is attached in the Annex.

Data collection, processing and analysis: The data for the assessment was collected using an unstructured questionnaire, focus group discussion and observation. The data was processed through re-writing and editing, and analysed through content and thematic methods.

Limitations

The evaluation design used mainly a qualitative approach to collect, analyses and report data. Any quantitative data presented were from secondary sources. The use of quantitative approach would have presented a certain dimension that could not be revealed by qualitative approach such as the actual output achieved between baseline and end of project. Additionally, the project did not also conduct a baseline assessment, which would have acted as a benchmark for measuring progress between baseline period and end of project. Failure of the project to conduct baseline and the use of only qualitative approach in this final evaluation is attributable to limited resources.

Implementation Status

At the time of the visit, implementation of final activities for the 10 month's project were still ongoing and these were in line with project closure such as end assessments with beneficiaries and handover meetings with the stakeholders in both Palorinya and Imvepi Settlements. During the previous monitoring visit in November 2020, a number of recommendations were proposed to



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improve the quality of implementation. Below are the recommendations and the status at the time of the current visit.

Recommendation: For any engagement with refugee children outside the settlement, and to avoid any unfortunate consequences of well-intended actions, it is recommended that AARJ gets written consent /permit from UNHCR and OPM allowing them to transport persons of concern from refugee settlement to activities outside.

Status: Initially, in order for AARJ to deliver radio programs through engagement of performers club members, they had to transport children to Moyo town without written consent from OPM but the evaluation visit established that this had been put right and that AARJ in their subsequent involvement with children outside the settlement, they would have to acquire written approval from OPM to safe guard against any unpleasant eventualities

Recommendation: Since AARJ is implementing activities that strongly mainstream child protection in education, they are advised to also strengthen their case management skills to ensure a complete service process is adhered to. This requires training in case management for staff and volunteers.

Status: AAR Japan as an organization conducted internal staff training for 3 core staff on Basics understanding of disability and inclusion for 6 hours, Child Functioning Assessment on-site training for 5 days by an invited professor, and internal on-the-job training on individual case management.

Recommendation: There is a need to strengthen the referral of cases to partners engagement of relevant district departments like the community services and education. Sharing data/gaps with the district will allow for the good planning and consideration of CWDs in the district development plan for future response and strengthen sustainability. The monitoring team took note of the inefficiencies that might arise from the inability by other service providers to provide the required support due to funding gaps and this causes inefficiency in other sectors.

Status: Discussions with Windle trust indicated that AARJ had shared an assessment report with partners for service provision. This same list helped WIU distribute books and home learning materials to children in need.

Recommendation: There's a need to strengthen activity coordination with partners to ensure that duplication is avoided and that a complete package is provided to the same targeted beneficiaries. This may also save some resources that could be channeled to other areas of need. For example, it was noted that the teachers are targeted by different partners like WIU, FCA and AARJ and these provide training at different times on topics some of which are cross-cutting.

Status: Same as above

Recommendation: A community engagement strategy taken on by AARJ was found to be very good in ensuring the sustainability of results, however, AARJ must attend the entry meetings of



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parent support groups to ensure that the goal and objectives of group formation are clear. And these should be stipulated in the manual for community facilitators.

Status: This was done but it's important to note that parents have a high demand for livelihood support to sustainably manage with the children with disabilities.

Recommendation: The radio program option was taken on to increase sensitization on CWDs and inclusive education seemed rather an expensive venture, unsustainable and the reach could not easily be determined. Besides, the radio signal from the radio station selected did not reach some parts of the settlement and beneficiaries preferred Radios like Pacis (which was rather too far to reach and would be more costly) and TBS FM for the case of Palorinya. A listenership assessment could help determine the effectiveness of this strategy, otherwise, following the Covid-19 SOPs, club members could reach out to small groups of community members within their catchment areas to sensitize and get feedback about CWDs inclusiveness. On the other hand, recorded messages could be boosted by being played on installed community radios especially at busy points for the community to listen in.

Status: AARJ resorted to use of existing community radios though they turned out to be few and more are needed in order to expand the listenership. Community dialogues were held through club members to the community (Recommendation 15)

Recommendation: Since AARJ is looking at inclusive education, this cannot be separated from human rights-based programming and so gender and equity issues should be considered lenses during programming. Therefore, only looking at CWDs is just a small component of the concept of inclusive education. It was noted during an FGD with secondary school club members that girls are still being marginalized when it comes to education. They said that some parents say they don't want to waste their money on "frogs". (Literally, the word "frogs" means people who squat while urinating, which discriminatively describes girl students.)

Status: AARJ to mobilize funds and further look into inclusive education as it remains a gap in refugee settlements. This was to consider recommendation 14 as well on CP mainstreaming

Recommendation: Strengthen community dialogue about the root causes of CWDs. For example, it was noted in two household visits that the cause of disability was cerebral malaria, an effect that could have been prevented if early diagnosis had been done. Through RWCs, this message could go far and save a lot of lives. For individual cases of stigma, a one on one discussion could be required with the persons having misconceptions on CWDs.

Status: Done with support of RWCs to parent support groups

Recommendation: The activity for PSGs only targeted parents with CWDs and this left out a category that might be the one causing stigma and misunderstandings on CWDs. It would be good to look at the activity multiplier effect of trained RWCs and PSG members engaging with the rest of the community. Their experiences shared, could prevent or reduce the occurrence of disabilities.

Status: Scope was expanded to include the rest of the community through holding sensitization sessions with them on CWDs



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Recommendation: Share preliminary findings of the CWDs assessment to avoid other assessments with the same groups by different partners in the same period. This raises expectations from persons of concern.

Status: Done

Recommendation: Donor requirements for Visibility: for any printed materials, the donor is on the right side, the implementer on the left while the OPM and UNHCR are visible on the arms of the T-Shirt.

Status: To be considered in future funding.

Recommendation: Strengthen the collaboration and partnership spirit and ensure presence at the settlement for easy access.

Status: AARJ reported being in the field 3-5 days a week and spends most time with beneficiaries than in office

Recommendation: Engage multiple community-based structures such as RWC, CPCs and PSG to strengthen ownership of projects and sustain results.

Status: RWCs and PSGs were yet involved in the project. Future programming to give consideration to synergies created by creating linkages with other community structures.

Recommendation: There's a need to train teachers in inclusive education –This training should target teachers in schools that were previously left out by JPF5. The senior woman teacher in Orinya indicated that sensitizing a teacher is sensitizing the most powerful person in the world. More so, there are no teachers trained in inclusive education and the assistive materials remain a challenge despite the one wheelchair provided by AARJ per school.

Status: Funds were limited. Future programming could consider many more teachers

Recommendation: It would be interesting to document the unintended positive impact life stories of family reunion that occurred as a result of radio programming.

Status: Not considered for this project that was ending

Recommendation: AARJ should consider sharing final report with like-minded partners and the coordinating agencies for any lessons.

Status: Findings were shared at sector level meeting

Implementation challenges

- Covid-19 restrictions delayed the implementation of activities meant to start in March and could only commence earliest in October, 2020; however preparatory meetings were done towards October. This also made some children hard to find in the communities since schools had closed down. The beneficiaries were also not ready to allow for interaction for fear of contracting COVID-19.



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- Bad roads due to the rainy season made movements to some schools very difficult. AARJ had to find alternative roads that turned out to be longer, resulting in increased cost of transportation and more time to completed planned activities. In many cases, AARJ had to make to and fro travels to school to get permission to engage children where head teachers were absent.
- Unfulfilled multi-sectoral needs by the CWDs that affect results achievement in inclusiveness. Most parents complained about the lack of clothes and enough food and medical attention for their children.
- Specialists and assistive device support for CWDs are not readily available in Imvepi settlement.

Project evaluation framework (Key Findings)

The evaluation exercise utilized the OECD framework⁴ of Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact, and Sustainability. The matrix below summarizes the findings under each of the framework elements.

Evaluation Criteria	M&E team Observations and suggestions for project improvement
<p>Relevance</p>	<p>The evaluation established that the intervention is relevant to the protection need of the refugee, education sector strategy and Refugee Response Plan of 2019/2020. The outputs produced by the project therefore contributed directly to the improvement in services to the targeted need of the refugees, improving the teaching and learning environment and refugee welfare. The paragraphs below presents the details.</p> <p>The purpose of AARJ response is in line with the protection needs analysis (in the Refugee Response Plan 2019-2020), which identified over 115,000 refugees with specific needs as of December 2018. These include persons with disabilities and serious medical conditions and persons carrying trauma. It goes ahead to specify that many more will require targeted services and support by the end of 2020 through outreaches and strengthening communities to effectively play an active role in their protection.</p> <p>The main objective of the 2019-2020 Education Sector strategy, in alignment with the Education Response Plan for Refugees and Host Communities in Uganda (ERP), is to provide refugee and host community girls and boys with equitable and inclusive access to quality education and to strengthen systems at the national, district and community levels. In line with this, AARJ has positioned RWCs at the forefront by supporting parent support groups to care</p>

⁴ <http://www.oecd.org/dac/>

	<p>for CWDs and strengthening community protection. AARJ has also focused on increasing CWDs participation in all social activities and access to services.</p> <p>In addition, through coordination meetings and with the coming of COVID-19, AARJ was able to take the interagency advice to continue engaging children through radio talk shows while respecting COVID-19 SoPs.</p> <p>RRP 2019/2020 Strategic objective 4 states that; by 2020, refugees progressively benefit from the provision of inclusive basic social services, including health, education, child protection, water and sanitation, provided by national authorities in refugee-hosting districts.</p>
<p>Effectiveness</p>	<p>Overall the setout purpose of the project was achieved, considering the level of awareness created among persons of concern on CWDs and access to psychosocial support through clubs and peer groups for children and adults respectively. These were complemented with the timely project monitoring that resulted in corrective actions that enhanced achievement of intended results much as the project would have required an extended time period to consolidate results through a haste free handover process. Statistical details are provided under the results table in Appendix 1.</p> <p>Below are the description of outputs achieved under each of the component.</p> <p>Component 1: Promoting healthy growth and mutual understanding of pupils in Palorinya Refugee Settlement</p> <p>The schools that were supported by AARJ in inclusive education all got a demonstration wheelchair each that was designated to support emergency cases of children with disabilities while at school and other children that might get serious illnesses that they can't walk. It was noted however that these wheel chairs had been kept in boxes and not yet in use partly because most pupils were still at home with schools closed due to COVID-19 pandemic. It was also noted that the responsible teachers didn't not have the ideal knowledge on maintenance of these chairs should they break down; however, presence of the wheel chairs is equally geared to gradually changing behavior and perceptions of community members towards the users and CWDs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As opposed to the initial alternative to use the costly HF Radios, the evaluation visit established that AARJ through other partners had considered utilization of existing community radios to air previously recorded radio talk shows by the radio performers' club members. In coordination with WIU, AARJ was also able to support home learning by airing out recorded learning

for children at home during the lock down over the weekends for everyone's benefit. Children in Bele and Idiwa villages (Zone 3) gathered around the community radios and this was proven to be a more effective platform compared to VHF radios whose listenership was being challenged by a number of issues such as; not everyone owned a radio, no batteries, and parents being interested in their own programs on radio rather than that of the children. Nonetheless, there was evident need to increase the number of these community radio stations for easy listenership as there were only 7-9 in the entire settlement.

- Through art, the children were able to reflect their feelings on paper regarding what happens and what should happen in their community regarding CWDs. This acted as a learning avenue for the pupils including those outside the club while those in the club happened to appreciate their new skills in drawing and supporting others in need.
- Pupils were involved in mask making as a skill to fight against the spread of COVID-19 in the communities. The only challenge pointed out was the ability for the community to comply in wearing them for the intended purpose. Overall, not so many cases of COVID-19 emerged from the persons of concern.
- Due to emerging needs of children in schools and the community, AARJ complemented the results with internal funding to activities such as training children and RWCs in reusable mask making as well as protective equipment needed at front desks, health centers and schools.
- The mask making lessons were done timely and this was coupled with distribution of hand sanitizers, liquid soap and hand washing facilities with support from a wash specialist.

Component 2: Promoting inclusive education and support for CWDs in Imvepi Refugee Settlement.

- AARJ targeted children with disabilities and their parents for inclusive education in Imvepi settlement, which required assessment of needs for children with disabilities, as well as engaging parents in support groups by RWCs as facilitators. Parents found being in these groups was educative and an eye opener about the rights of children, however, the parents indicated that it was still very hard to provide for the needs of CWDs due to lingering poverty partially caused by lack of source of income.
- Through an FGD with WIU staff on the effectiveness of AARJ project to delivering project objectives, they indicated that despite the efforts injected

	<p>in sensitizing parents about CWDs and giving psychosocial support, there's also need to concretize the results/efforts by building the capacity of parents in income generating skills in order to improve their livelihoods and in return give better support to their children.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More CWDs are expected to enroll in school after engaging the parents on their roles and responsibilities towards this group of children. It was noted that the cause for missing out on social services by these children was not solely due to limited services (specialized) but also due ignorance of parents. • Through home visits/assessments, AARJ helped boost the confidence of CWDs and gave them new hope about their situation. It was noted however, other than assessing their needs, nothing tangible was given in terms of assistive devices due to limited funding, nonetheless, the report was shared with other partners to support where they can.
<p>Efficiency</p>	<p>The intervention is considered efficient in term of resource utilization, output achievement and measures to ensure sustainability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall, other than the COVID-19 restrictions, the project funds were utilized efficiently to achieve the intended results. The immediate purpose of the project was to save lives and engage community and this was done in time. • At the time of the evaluation visit, at least 99% of the project activities had been implemented except for the post assessment on club participation that was on-going. Given the non-cost extension therefore, the project was well on its way to having 100% of the planned activities completed within the agreed time frame. AARJ was in the process of ensuring proper handover of results to relevant partners was done to ensure results continuity. • As opposed to the findings in the monitoring visit held in November 2020 that pointed out a cost inefficiency in radio talk shows strategy, which acted as an alternative to community engagements on inclusive education, this evaluation visit established that radio talk shows that involved children going to Moyo town had all been completed and AARJ had resorted to utilizing cost effective community radios to reach communities that didn't not have access to radio platforms. Moreover, the program covered both COVID-19 prevention and CWD awareness for the host and refugee communities.

<p>Impact</p>	<p>Project outputs achieved is resulting into several positive outcomes in the lives of CWDs and their families as well as students and pupils in school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through radio programming and engagement of community leaders to engage parents in peer support groups and sensitize community about CWDs has changed attitudes towards this category of children and adults in the community. Children confessed having helped CWDs in their community and as well reported abuse towards this group of individuals in the community. The parents confessed having a better understanding of their children’s needs and rights and were doing all they could to support. • Lesson: Children can be used as a change agent. Through positive discussions with children in performers club other children were able to benefit from the instilled goodwill among the children. • There’s a wider knowledge about disabilities in the community and this has changed positively the care for children with disabilities and this has also improved the relationship between children and parents thus enhanced wellbeing. • Children with disabilities were reported to be participating in different activities at household and community levels. • Poster making through art helped pupils discover and promote their skills in art as they expressed themselves. • Parents got peace, love, unity, counselling and guidance through parent support group activities and in return children support has increased from parents. In addition, fights from insults have reduced because parents now understand their problems better. • CWDs and their parents can now comfortably participate in community work as opposed to before when they suffered lots of insults and discrimination. • With the sensitization to communities, more CWDs are expected to join and get back to school once schools are open however in some schools ramps are nonexistent and there’s a lack of assistive devices for different categories of disabilities for effective inclusive education.
<p>Sustainability</p>	<p>Assessed whether the benefits of the project achieved so far are likely to continue after the end of the implementation of project activities. Although most of the planned activities under the project is still being implemented under the non-cost extension, the monitoring visit established the following initiatives that could contribute to sustaining the outcome of the intervention.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club Patrons were encouraged to carry on the monitoring of the club activities to ensure continuity • Practicability: the inclusive education awareness creation for parents were viewed by OPM as so practical for parents who sometimes are their own perpetrators for children’s rights violation and this is deemed to go a long

	<p>way in protecting generations as communities find local solutions to local problems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support groups were created to enhance mental wellbeing amidst challenges faced in the settlement. It was noted that parent support groups were on the increase with an additional aim to start up saving group for economic benefit through ideas sharing. • The medical examinations during the needs assessment for CWDs helped parents and children to understand the situation and live with it in cases where nothing much could be done. <p>Previously captured in the monitoring report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner support is temporary but the education services are integrated and OPM calls upon more and more community-based approach to programming by engaging community structures at all levels for a stronger sense of ownership. • RWCs reported having limited contact with Child Protection Committees (CPCs) in their villages on CWDs may be a loose end in ensuring follow up and wellbeing of CWDs. • The Government of Uganda is trying to integrate all partner contributions into the development plans sector by sector case by case to ensure continuity. Additionally, Uganda has ratified several international protocols that it continues to observe much as departments like OPM are limited by funding.
<p>Core Humanitarian Standards</p>	<p>Humanitarian intervention is guided by four core principles, which are humanity, impartiality, independence, and neutrality. These principles are operationalized by nine (9) standards on quality and accountability. This was used in assessing the intervention in this dimension of the criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The response being appropriate and relevant: CWDs in communities was one of the marginalized groups in refugee communities according to the AARJ needs assessment conducted before implementation. 2. Response effective and timely: Time wasn't enough to measure impact of some activities such as Art for inclusive education but children were able to express their feelings through art. 3. Response strengthens local capacities and avoids negative effects: AARJ strengthened the local leadership (RWCs) capacities who in turn supported parents with children with disabilities to understand the needs of CWDs and support them accordingly. However, the group members still thought the primary purpose for grouping was more economical than emotional support. 4. Response based on communication, participation, and feedback: AARJ participated frequently in the education sector meetings and was able to implement some activities with guidance from lead partners.

	<p>5. Complaints are welcomed and addressed: AARJ was able to assess needs of CWDs much as they were limited in service provision but depend on referrals.</p> <p>6. Responses are coordinated and complementary: AARJ participates in coordination meetings chaired by the sector head WIU and FCA where gaps and updates are shared.</p> <p>7. Actors continuously learn and improve: There's individual capacity building noted.</p> <p>8. Staff are supported to do their job effectively and are treated fairly and equitably: 5 staffs are implementing the project 2 in each location and 1 who supported both locations (a middle between). 2 of the staff were expatriates who supported the local team technically and logistically to perform their duties. It was however noted that that staff did not get per diem to support their stay out of their duty station.</p> <p>9. Resources are managed and used responsibly for their intended purpose: AARJ was able to utilize existing community radios to deliver messages to the community about inclusive education. However, with the short project, high staff turnover might occur for more stable jobs.</p>
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Recommendations

The following recommendations are proposed to guide the remaining period (extended period) of implementation and any other similar or planned intervention in Palorinya and Imvepi refugee settlements.

1. There was need for partner to have put into consideration the time period in the proposal to allow for proper and haste free hand over of the project to ensure results continuity.
2. Well planned exit meeting with beneficiaries and other stakeholders would help in evaluating the project impact and capture lessons from the end users. A one day's meeting with like-minded categories of stakeholders putting age into consideration would be useful for future development projects
3. It would be ideal for AARJ not to only stop at identification of CWD needs but to also directly support them in addition to referrals. In addition, AARJ needs to strengthen their feedback mechanism with partners on referred cases.
4. With further reduction of the food ratio by 40%, the families with children with disabilities tend to require some extra support depending on the condition of their children and thus it would be ideal to reinforce results with some economic support to these families and this could contribute to mental wellness for caregivers as well.
5. Because there's a gaps analysis shared to all partners, it would be ideal for AARJ to continue to coordinate with other partners implementing in similar locations on services they intend to offer in order to avoid any possible duplication. This could be done through holding inception meetings with stakeholders. Proposing different locations of response with similar needs at the proposal stage, could easily meet with donor flexibility.



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6. With the creation of a new zone in Imvepi, the gap in psychosocial needs and inclusive education keeps expanding. It is recommended that AARJ expand activities to this zone hosting Congolese refugees.
7. The OPM requested AARJ to think development projects because according to their projections, refugees could stay around for up to around 75years. This also helps in combating staff turnover in AARJ and as well as saving already trained capacities. AARJ is therefore advised to continue fundraising to be able to support the children in need in these settlements.
8. In Imvepi, AARJ was requested by OPM to get closer to the settlement and not be looked at as a briefcase organization. To avoid long travels from Yumbe every day, AARJ could explore daily presence at the base camp and settlement.

Conclusion

The intervention made meaningful contributions in promoting healthy growth and mutual understanding of pupils in Palorinya Refugee Settlement, and promoting inclusive education and support for CWDs in Imvepi Refugee Settlement. It also emerged that during the implementation of the various planned activities under the two components, a number of initiatives were taken to build the capacity and strengthen structure in the refugee settlement and the host communities to sustain project outcome. However, there are still the need to support some of the groups formed such as the parents support groups, school radio performing clubs, and inclusive education clubs to allow them to progress through the group development stages.



4. PWJ PROJECT EVALUATION REPORT

Project Summary

Program name	Congolese Refugees' Emergency Response Support 2020				
Project	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Improvement for DRC Refugees in Western Uganda				
Start date	June 9, 2020	End date	February 15, 2021 (Originally October 31, 2020, But non -cost extended)	Days	252
Organization name	Peace Winds Japan (PWJ)/ Japan Platform		Contact name	Takashi SHICHIJO	

Introduction

Japan Platform undertook an end of project evaluation visit to Peace Winds Japan (PWJ), a JPF member partner implementing WASH activities in Kyaka II refugee settlement found in Kyegegwa district. The visit focused on verifying whether the humanitarian principles and standards were being respected; understanding beneficiary satisfaction; analyzing the impact of the project with the available data; providing technical advice and feedback for project improvement; and identifying additional technical assistance and other resources that may be needed. A comprehensive M&E team from JPF that undertook the visit was composed of 3 members, namely; Arinaitwe Fatuma (Protection, Education & M&E), Kica Richard Ocaya (M&E, WASH, Protection, health & education) and Jimmy Oriba (WASH).

Context

Kyaka II Refugee Settlement was opened in 1983 to host 28,000 refugees on a 81.5 square kilometer piece of land. According to the UNHCR, OPM, District data shared on the UNHCR data portal, the same land hosts 123,928 persons of concern as of 31st January, 2021 and only increasing with new births. According to OPM, at least 84 new births every week are registered from both the host and refugee communities. Currently, at full capacity, each household is allocated 30 by 30 meters of agricultural and homestead land and new influx are being diverted to Nakivale Settlement. The occupants of Kyaka II are settled on 9 zones of Sweswe, Byabakora, Buliti, Bwiriza, Itambabiniga, Mukondo, Kakoni, Bukere, and Kaborogota. These include Congolese being the majority, followed by Rwandese, Burundian, and smaller groups of South Sudanese,



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Eritreans, Ethiopians, Somalis and Kenyans among others settled there on security grounds. These nationalities have integrated and live peacefully even with the nationals.

There are approximately 34 development partners in Kyaka II settlement and 6 of them are implementing for UNHCR and the rest are operational partners whose services cut across livelihood, WASH, Protection and Community services, Education, health and Nutrition. As donor funding decreases there remain only two active partners in WASH i.e. PWJ and Oxfam (UNHCR's IP) to cover the WASH gaps. Kyaka II mostly depends on runoffs, shallow wells and spring water; otherwise, efforts to drill boreholes have several times been frustrated by the number of dry wells hit. Information from Oxfam indicated that most of the drilled borehole water had been contaminated by fecal matter and the only safe sources were the tap stands. With the rains and human activity at the swamps, water turbidity remains a challenge and this has extended water pumping to beneficiaries by 2 hours for sedimentation to take place. The ministry of water and environment is calling upon every development partner to allocate 15% of its budget to environmental works (e.g., planting trees); only two organizations had complied- one in refugee settlement (Nsamizi on behalf of UNHCR) and Jesse implementing in host communities. Other partners like PWJ have planted trees mainly where they have constructed.

Kyaka II settlement has 15 primary schools (both private and public), one secondary school with plans to construct a second one and one vocational skills training center. Overcrowding in classes amidst limited resources has affected the quality of education, moreover, the latrine stance pupil ratio is averagely at 1:55. In the rest of the community, the sanitation coverage standards at 59% but a KAP survey conducted by Oxfam brought this number down to 44%. An interview with Oxfam indicated a latrine usage of 64% compared to the recommended standard of $\geq 85\%$ household access to a latrine and that 47% had access to hand washing facilities before Covid-19 breakout, a situation that improved during Covid-19 lockdown to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 to the persons of concern.

The settlement has three water plants; one in Sweswe, one in Bujubuli and the other in Buliti being upgraded from a generator powered to solar powered system for sustainability, fuel cost-cutting and increased water supply to villages of need. The amount of water pumped to the communities in the 3 zones of Buliti, Bukere and Bwiriza is anticipated to increase by 240m^3 per day; this is expected to improve the average water access per person per day from the current average of 11.9 l/p/d to 13.5 l/p/d after full operationalization of the solarized water plant. This improved average availability will however, still be less than the minimum emergency standard of 20 l/p/d and the set standard of 17 l/p/d for Kyaka II refugee settlement.

Project Background

The second Phase of JPF funding to PWJ started 9th June, 2020 and was scheduled to end on 31st October for a 5 month's project on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene improvement for DRC refugees in Western Uganda. The project had both the soft and hard components; component one looked at



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the improvement of Buliti Water Supply Plant to increase the amount of water supplied to zones of Buliti, Bukere and Bwiriza and as well maintain a sustainable supply by reducing operational costs of diesel fuel and enabling a continuous pumping using solar power. Component two focused on construction and decommissioning of latrines, construction of incinerator and changing room, installation of hand washing facilities for primary schools and a secondary school, hygiene promotion, and menstrual hygiene management (MHM) kits distribution. The second component served the purpose of improving the sanitation and hygiene knowledge and environment for both host and refugee primary school pupils, secondary school students and teachers in Kyaka II refugee settlement.

Methodology

This section presents the evaluation design and strategy, study population and respondents, sample size, sampling methods, and data collection, processing and analysis.

Research design and strategy: the evaluation applied a *qualitative method* with a *cross-sectional design* as a strategy. Qualitative design collected narratives that were used to answer the evaluation questions. The cross-sectional design ensured the collection of data from the identified respondents at only one point in time to answer the evaluation questions.

Study population and respondents: The evaluation population and the respondents were refugees living in Kyaka II refugee settlements in Kyegegwa District, Western Uganda.

Sample selection and size: The respondents were sampled purposively. This involved the selection of respondents based on their status as a refugee/host community and being in the location targeted by the project, and also being a stakeholder relevant to the project and the WASH sector. A total of 77 respondents were covered by the assessment.

Data collection, processing and analysis: The data for the assessment was collected using an unstructured questionnaire. The data was processed through re-writing and editing and analysed through content and thematic methods of analysis.

Project Evaluation Framework (Key findings)

The evaluation exercise utilized the OECD-DAC⁵ framework of Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact and Sustainability. The matrix below summarizes the findings under each of the framework elements.

Monitoring Criteria	M&E team observations and suggestions for project improvement
Relevance	The relevance of the intervention was assessed in terms of the extent to which the intervention activities suited the priorities and policies of the government of

⁵ <http://www.oecd.org/dac/>

	<p>Uganda, refugee/host communities, Peace Winds Japan and the donor agency (Japan Platform). Overall, the intervention was relevant to the aspiration of PWJ, SDG 6, WASH sector working group and the needs of the refugee and the host communities to access safe, adequate and reliable water supply.</p> <p>PWJ's project purpose to improve the water, hygiene and sanitation environment in Kyaka II selected zones, is in line with the sector's⁶ aims to ensure that refugees and host populations have safe and sufficient access to quality water and improved sanitation and hygiene services, including at household level and in institutions such as schools and health facilities. Also, according to the Uganda refugee response plan, the overall goal for the WASH sector is to ensure that refugees fulfill their basic right to water, sanitation and hygiene and this is in line with Sustainable Development Goals 6.</p> <p>According to OPM, UNHCR and like-minded sector Partners like Oxfam and DRC, PWJ/JPF WASH mainstreaming response project was informed by the Education and WASH sectoral 4Ws gap analysis compiled through an interagency assessment.</p> <p>The government WASH sector needs to shift from humanitarian to a market-driven and development approach for all WASH initiatives qualifies solarization of the Buliti water plant project as a more efficient, durable and cost effective venture that will enable the provision of water to areas where the demand is high.</p> <p>The refugees and the host communities Through the participatory approach employed by UNHCR to capture beneficiaries' needs and priorities, all partners including PWJ participated in this exercise from which partners based their programming for 2020. This exercise is carried out yearly to keep programming relevant to the persons of concern</p>
<p>Effectiveness</p>	<p>The effectiveness of the intervention was assessed in terms of objective targets/intended outputs and the status of their achievement. Overall, except increasing the volume of water to the intended beneficiaries, which will be the focus of JPF3 fund, the intervention can be described as effective in term of reducing the cost of pumping, increasing pupil-latrines ratio, empowering girls to sustainably manage menstrual hygiene among other numerous benefits, details of which are described below under each of the components.</p>

⁶ <https://reliefweb.int/report/uganda/uganda-refugee-response-plan-rrp-2019-2020-wash-dashboard-quarter-2-january-june-2020>

Component 1: Improvement of Buliti Water Supply Plant (Maintain sustainable water supply and increase the amount of water supplied)

- PWJ improved Buliti water supply plant from diesel driven plant to a hybrid plant (solar with generator back-up) by installing 152 solar panels on 4 strings of 275 watts each panel able to produce total DC power of 41800watts i.e. 41.8kw. The panels are expected to operate at 75%efficiency, hence supplying the pump of 30KW with 31.35KW. The system was also provided with an inverter that can convert DC power of 30 to 37KW to AC power. However, shading of some panels that may affect total power produced to pump water especially during the wet months of the year was noticed. It is important to note that PWJ has secured funding that will be utilized to enhance the flow of the water for optimal utilization of solar power.
- Security of the water plant had been enhanced through the provision of 4 solar lights, an automated motion sensor (alarm) system that goes on when someone gets closer to the panels to guard against theft of solar panels at night; an act that might interrupt water supply. All these are in a gazetted area.
- From an FGD with the water user committee, they pledged to sensitize the community including the children on the protection of the system. This was because of the need to prevent any energy losses that may arise from broken panels due to the throwing of stones by children or theft that will negatively impact the effectiveness of the system.
- PWJ has had good working relations with other partners by always attending the WASH sector meetings among others. The same platform helped advice PWJ on the arrangement of the solar panels through a joint monitoring exercise as part of a coordination mechanism.
- The water flow to the T70 tanks, however, remains one of the challenges to constant water supply and access due to the long waiting time (5hours) each tank takes to fill. The sedimentation time (2hours) added to the flow rate negatively impacts the effectiveness of the solarized plant to increase water supply to the community. PWJ plans to work on this component in phase (3) three of the project in close collaboration with various stakeholders.
- Quality of water is another challenge to the beneficiaries who questioned the chlorination contact time saying that, water reaches their taps in 5 minutes after pumping to the distribution tanks. Additionally, the UNHCR WASH implementing partner (OXFAM) mentioned that they dose ~25kg of aluminum sulphate (alum) to aid sedimentation for the clear water to attain <5NTU

turbidity levels. This is quite expensive in the long run if safe water provision is to continue freely. As mentioned during the KIIs by Oxfam and PWJ, the improvement at the source to improve waiting time should ideally include improvement of sedimentation so that this minimizes the daily alum usage.

Component 2: Construction/ decommissioning of latrines, construction of incinerator and changing room, and installation of hand washing facilities for primary schools.

2-2: Hygiene promotion and menstrual hygiene management (MHM) kits distribution

- Four primary schools of Sweswe, Bukere, Itambabiniga, Byabakora and one secondary school called Bujubuli benefited from drainable latrines. In total, 17 latrines (70 stances) and 31 hand washing facilities were handed over to school management committees of the above schools who mentioned having an MOU for continued O&M. Important to note is that due to the high enrolment numbers the latrine stance pupil ratio is still high at 1:65 against 1:45 with limited hand washing and hygiene kits. A snap list was however compiled through joint partners monitoring exercise, for the contractors to correct defects by 15th March 2021 when the liability period expires.
 - i. Sweswe PS: 1 block for pupils, 1 block for teachers (Girls- 1:63, Boys- 1:76)
 - ii. Bukere PS: 1 block for pupils, 1 block for teachers (Girls – 1:70, Boys 1:60)
 - iii. Byabakora PS; 2 blocks for pupils, 1 block for teachers (Girls- 1:66, Boys-1:70)
 - iv. Itambabiniga PS: 4 blocks for pupils, 1 block for teachers (Girls- 1:26, Boys-1:28)
 - v. Bujubuli SS: 4 blocks for pupils, 1 block for teachers (Girls- 1:26, Boys 1:20)
- Latrine curtain walls were painted with hygiene messages in pictorial forms and this is geared towards behavioral change in hand washing. The pupils were able to elaborate that the pictures act as a reminder that the provided tanks at the latrines and around the compound are for hand washing and thus hand washing and general hygiene in the school has greatly improved.
- PWJ has strengthened its coordination with the protection working group and reinforced a zero tolerance principle to sexual harassment. PWJ and the schools took a lesson from the previous incident with contractors on inappropriate behaviors towards girls and as such always send out constant reminders to contractors. The schools will establish SoPs on how to accommodate contractors during and after work.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PWJ's innovative use of transparent sheets was to minimize defecation on latrine floor areas by the young children and missing holes by the bigger children who found it dark and unsafe in the latrine. However, the decrease and or elimination of open defecation in schools would only be determined through an assessment by PWJ preferably after schools are fully reopened. ● Distribution of Menstrual Hygiene Kits (MHM) was effected to 3100 girls of reproductive age. The kits included 6 sanitary pads, 2 knickers, fliers with hygiene messages, a 10 liters bucket, and a bar of soap. FGD with Girls indicated that PWJ had trained them in making their own reusable pads, using the installed incinerator and maintaining a clean environment around their school.
<p>Efficiency</p>	<p>Measured the value for money of the intervention by comparing the volume of resources utilized during the intervention and the outputs achieved within the planned timeframe. In summary, the project efficiency can be regarded to on track because the provided resources were utilized to produce the intended outputs, within some cases target exceeding planned as the case in sensitization of pupils due to use of mobile speakers with recorded messages in the settlement, instead of the original focus on the pupils at school level.</p> <p>The only ineffective component identifiable was the long period required to implement due to disruption caused by Covid-19, and the general election in the country. This, therefore, necessitated two non-cost extensions of the implementation period. The subsequent paragraphs describe the different aspects of the efficiency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Working backward: towards and after Solarization of the project, it was noted through a joint monitoring team that intended results could hardly be achieved unless the water flows into the tanks are quickened by correcting the flow design oversights caused by the previous partner. Thus targeted villages to benefit from safe water will have to wait until then. Lesson: detailed discussion of water flow designs could be held at sector level coordination and signed off for easy monitoring on compliance to design by the sector, a diversion from which the responsible partner would be accountable. However, savings would be realized from a reduction in fuel usage as solar energy will be used as the main source of power.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For other activities, especially the construction of latrines, incinerator and changing room, and other software activities, were all completed to a stage of generating full impact. • Overall, however, the project was completed after another non-cost extension of 15 days, which extended the project life from 31st January to 15th February 2021.
<p>Impacts</p>	<p>The following are the positive/negative, direct/indirect, and intended/unintended effects of the intervention results on the local social, economic, environmental and other development dimensions established. The project humanitarian impact overall was significantly on the positive than the negative as shall be elaborated in the observations below;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The intervention has resulted in improved access to sanitation facilities in the targeted schools thereby reducing the pupil-latrine stance ratio for the respective schools. Also, the provision of sanitary facilities such as hand washing facilities and detergent, changing rooms for girls with incinerator, is resulting in improved hygiene practices among the pupils. • Improved attendance of girls in the school as evidence by the current attendance of girls in the candidate class while other classes are out of school due to Covid-19 pandemic. The reported improvement was partly attributable to the availability of changing room in Bukere primary school and training provided to girls on making sanitary pads. In Bukere primary school, compared with other schools in the settlement, there are more girls than boys. • The hygiene practice drawings and messages on the latrine wall curtains resulted in instant awareness creation and enforcement of practice among pupils. Hand washing has become a habit as a result thus improving the hygiene situation at school. This has become a model which other partners in the sector are adopting. • The solarisation of Buliti water pumping station resulted in immediate operational cost reduction in term of fuel required for running the generator for water pumping. • The solarisation of the water pumping plant also resulted in a reduction in noise pollution for the community from the generator. The community complained that at times the noise was unbearable, but this is all gone now with the new source of energy for the pumping station.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● As a perceived negative outcome, the fencing of water point at Buliti pumping station limited community access to ponding water from overflow at the spring source which the community had been accessing for other use such as for washing. Though PWJ has provided a pedestrian gate to allow for access the long term solution is intended to be addressed by Oxfam through UNHCR by extending piped water adjacent to the fence for the community to access. ● Trees and bush shrubs were cleared to set up projects from the different locations. As such, PWJ had plans for planting trees in all these locations that had not been achieved fully by the end of the project. ● As an unintended impact of the intervention in the selected schools, pupils are relocating from other schools and communities by registering in these schools due to improved facilities. This is resulting in more pressure on the existing facilities and resources, including the increased pupil-teacher ratio.
<p>Sustainability</p>	<p>Looking at the outputs and processes undertaken to produce them such as involvement of the girls in the production of sanitary wear and maintenance of the incinerator, the engagement of the water user committee to safeguard and maintain the solarized plant; as well as the involvement of other partners in its maintenance; the project results are bound to last for at least 15-25years.</p> <p>In the course of the implementation of the project, the following measures of circumstances were established as can potentially ensure the sustainability of the project outputs achieved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Ministry of Water and Environment has provided guidelines for operation and maintenance of water schemes that require the establishment of management structures, including water User Committees that oversee O&M activities such as the cleanliness of water points, at community levels. ● Engagement of lower classes in knowledge acquisition on menstrual hygiene and STIs including making of reusable sanitary pads was adopted in schools of intervention to ensure continuity. ● PWJ plans to handover the solarized system to UNHCR, OPM and Oxfam who will continue to oversee the operation and maintenance of the system. As mentioned by OPM, the system will be well received upon proper hand over.

Core Humanitarian Standards

Humanitarian intervention is guided by four core principles, which are humanity, impartiality, independence and neutrality. These principles are operationalized by nine (9) standards on quality and accountability. Overall, the evaluation did not identify noticeable infringement of these principles in the course of the implementation of the project. PWJ is coordinating well with other stakeholders in the WASH and education sectors, and those others in the refugee response.

Note: In addition to the adherence to the humanitarian standards, the evaluation team also established that PWJ team was able to act and resolve all the suggested recommendations from the previous monitoring visit during the month of November 2020.

Recommendations

- PWJ is encouraged to initiate strategic discussions with OPM, UNHCR and OXFAM for their technical and related needs in pursuing scaling up initiatives for the WASH in school activities and solar power based water supply schemes next year and for the future.
- PWJ may organize or participate in WASH cluster meetings, workshops/seminars with OPM, UNHCR, OXFAM, school managers and operators of WASH facilities to share experiences on problems/ challenges and solutions encountered in the operation and maintenance of new WASH facilities.
- There is a need to strengthen partnership with other WASH partners while regularly conducting sharing sessions and visits to similar projects to help distill experiences and lessons relevant for future project consideration.
- The hygiene promotion component should have a follow up initiative to address gaps of the pupils/students that still have to adapt to hygiene practices of hand washing and cleanliness of the toilets.
- It is necessary to improve toilet use and cleanliness among the school children however, the responsibility for keeping the toilets clean should be shared with user's involvement and safety considerations in mind and this should be part of the school's hygiene education.
- Operation and maintenance manuals should be provided to community structures whose capacities have been built for project continuity.
- Since the solarisation of Buliti Plant has just been completed at the time of the evaluation visit, it is advised that the monitoring of the operation of the system should form part of JPF3 funding that had just been approved and implementation commences.
- There is a need for PWJ to continue strengthening its coordination with child protection partners to enhance the protection of girls in and out of school so as not to fall prey to child marriage and teenage pregnancy.

Conclusion

Overall, the intervention produced the intended outputs necessary for the realization of the objective outcomes over the coming months and years. Also, the outputs achieved are at the



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minimum standards for the sector i.e. water pumping system requirements and operation and maintenance (O&M) arrangements, latrine construction specifications, and sanitation and hygiene standards for schools. However, to guarantee the sustainable realization of the ultimate objective, PWJ and the stakeholders should ensure that the recommendations proposed are acted upon.

5. SAVE THE CHILDREN_DRC PROJECT REPORT

Project summary

program name	Uganda's Emergency Response Assistance for Refugees in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Emergency Response Period)				
Project	Child and Youth Conservation of Refugees in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in Southwestern Uganda Protecting children and Empowering Youth from the Democratic Public of Congo (DRC) in South Western Uganda.				
Start date	April 3, 2020	End date	October 31, 2020 Non-cost ext. to 31 st Jan 21 Non cost ext. to 25 th March 21	Days	212Day(s)
Organization name	Save the Children		Contact name	Takunori Matsumura	

Introduction

Japan Platform undertook an evaluation visit to SCJ, a JPF member partner implementing protection and youth activities in Rwamwanja refugee settlement found in Kamwenge district. In addition to the purpose of the visit to verify whether the humanitarian principles and standards were being respected by the project; understanding beneficiary satisfaction; analyzing the impact of the project with the available data; providing technical advice and feedback to the project improvement; and identifying additional technical assistance and other resources that may be needed; the evaluation visit also had a particular interest in tracking progress on actions taken on previous monitoring visit (November 2020 from 12th to 16th) recommendations. The M&E team



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composed of two members, namely; Arinaitwe Fatuma (Protection, Education & M&E) and Kica Richard Ocaya (M&E, WASH, Protection, health & education); presents the report findings in line with the purpose of the visit and JPF commitments for people in humanitarian crises.

Background

Rwamwanja refugee settlement found in Kamwenge district -Western Part of Uganda and as of February 2021 it hosts approximately 75942⁷ persons of concern (PoCs) on 87 square miles of land. According to OPM, two square miles were given to encroachers on the land for settlement and agriculture, so Rwamwanja remained with 85squaremiles to the refugees. It was opened in 1964 to the Rwandese refugees who later repatriated in 1995. The settlement was then reopened in 2012 to the refugees coming from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). There are 5 sub-counties where the settlement is situated, 13 zones and 43 villages in Rwamwanja settlement with 17,128 households, and each household is given at least 50 by 50 meters of land to live and cultivate in (OPM). With the open border refugee policy⁸ of Uganda, this portion is likely to be reduced. Because of the Covid Pandemic, refugees are no longer allowed to cross to Uganda and thus no new cases were being registered except for returnees and those arriving by foot on their own (OPM). Rwamwanja Refugee settlement had been receiving refugees from Nyakabande and Matanda transit center before Covid 19 lockdown and SCJ through the JPF emergency program assistance for refugees from DRC, provided protection services to both children and youth. The SCJ project serves 9 out of 13 zones targeting 9,480 beneficiaries across 3 districts of Kamwenge, Kanungu and Kisoro. Phase II of SCJ-JPF partnership for DRC refugee response aimed at systems strengthening, protection of children and promotion of youth resilience skills.

Context

The DRC civil conflict that broke out around December 2008 resulted in thousands of people fleeing to Uganda away from oppression in their country of origin. In November 2012, Rwamwanja settlement was reopened but for refugees coming from the DRC through the different border points in western Uganda. Children and women form the largest percentage (82%)⁹ of the DRC population in Rwamwanja who also turn out to be the most vulnerable and targeted portion of the population. Discussions with OPM protection focal point and SCJ staff indicated that child labour, child marriage, domestic (physical & emotional abuse), sexual violence were rampant and that 70% of cases in the CPIMS are cases of child neglect in the communities and this has over time called for systems strengthening. With covid19 restrictions on schools opening, according to the CPIMS update in in November 2020, sexual abuse has resulted in increased teenage

⁷ <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/85483>

⁸ [IRRI-Uganda-policy-paper-October-2018-paper.pdf](#) (pg3)

⁹ <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/85483>



pregnancies and child marriages, child labour in bars, domestic violence and neglect by drunken caregivers. From April, 2020, child neglect and emotional abuse took 17% of the risk chart, followed by unmet basic needs, than children living with persons with special needs, and lastly children with no basic support to services.

Methodology

This section presents the evaluation design and strategy, study population and respondents, sample size, sampling methods, and data collection, processing and analysis.

Research design and method: the evaluation applied a *qualitative method* with a *cross-sectional design* as a strategy. Qualitative design collected narratives that were used to answer the evaluation questions. The cross-sectional design ensured the collection of data from the identified respondents at only one point in time to answer the evaluation questions.

Study population and respondents: The evaluation population and the respondents were refugees/or host community living in Rwamwanja refugee settlement in Kamwenge district, Western Uganda. Respondents were selected from both the refugees and host community stakeholders involved in the response in the refugee settlement and Nyakabande and Matanda transit Centres.

Sample selection and size: The respondents were sampled purposively. This involved the selection of respondents based on their status as a refugee/host community and being in the location targeted by the project, and also being a stakeholder relevant to the project and the protection sector. A total of 96 respondents were covered by the assessment. Full list is attached in the Annex.

Data collection, processing and analysis: The data for the assessment was collected using an unstructured questionnaire, focus group discussion, document reviews and observation. The data was processed through re-writing and editing, and analysed through content and thematic methods.

Project Implementation status

At the time of the visit, implementation of some activities were still ongoing after the project was given another non-cost extension up to March 25, 2021. The non-cost extension was due to Covid 19 outbreak in the Save the Children field office in Rwamwanja.

During the previous monitoring visit in November 2020, a number of recommendations were proposed to improve the quality of implementation. Below are the recommendations and the status at the time of the current visit.

1. Good M&E system, however, it is recommended that the performance indicators tracking be separated from the outcome indicators so that the two levels of tracking and the emerging progress can be interpreted separately.



Status: Implemented.

2. SCJ still needs to carry out child protection training for staff including volunteers and caseworkers with particular focus on terms definition and categorization of protection issues in order to continue strengthening the evidence base.

Status: Implemented: The case workers and volunteers reported receiving two training on child protection since the last monitoring visit in November 2020.

3. Whereas the life skilling is a good initiative for the youth in Rwamwanja, there is need to filter content that is being taught to what age group.

Status: Implemented: SCJ worked in coordination with UNHCR to reimagine the youth skilling programs. They agreed that if children are to be involved, adult supervision is a must or the support is given to the caregiver. Age appropriate life skills training is going on for the eligibly selected and those that have clocked 18years and not in school or have no hopes of rejoining the mainstream are supported with startup kits. Rescreening of participants was done to eliminate those who had presented fake evidence in order to be admitted most of whom are children that had been locked down by the Covid pandemic.

4. Despite the existence of a known referral pathway, there's a need to engage police more in prioritizing cases of abuse over money.

Status: Ongoing: Save the children is working with partners in the protection working group to increase awareness and advocacy against corrupt practices. No more cases being managed by RWCs but the CFPU has to be informed to avoid case disappearance/compromise. The CP and education referral pathway are to be merged into one and these are underway though referrals to and from some partners remain verbal, un-responded to or no service given to beneficiary.

5. Having confirmed a corona case in SCJ field office, there's need for staff to take Covid19 SoPs more seriously, so that they don't become a danger to the children and general community in which they work. Funding not utilized could be diverted to Covid 19 response items that include masks, soap, sanitizers and hand washing facilities among others with consent from JPF.

Status: Covid 19 SoP being observed in the field office at the time of the visit compared to What was observed during the previous visit. The team was able to observe adherence to Covid 19 SoP such as social distancing in the office setting, mask wearing and constant access to hand sanitizer and hand washing facility.

Implementation Challenges

The implementation of the project is faced with the following challenges:

1. There have been instances where members of community reporting cases, especially those that have the element of violation or criminal in nature have faced retaliation from the perpetrators. The fear created by retaliation makes some cases not get reported. In response, the case workers have resorted to keeping the identity of those reporting cases anonymous.



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2. There is still a negative attitude towards education of children. According to the caseworkers, a number of parents are said to prefer sending their children for casual labour so the family can earn more income; while the girls are considered to be wife material at the age of 13 and not school material.
3. There is poor participation of men in community sensitization activities as exhibited by their poor turn up for such meetings. Many men tend to leave their homes whenever such meetings are organized in their villages. Having activities that target men such as using them as mentors or models to the young ones could get them more interested in sensitizations and learning new skills.
4. Presidential election week and most especially Covid 19 outbreak significantly limited Save the Children’s interaction with the community and delayed their acceptance by the community to resume community work such as dialogues, general case management, thus delays in implementation of a few activities that were still ongoing like, face to face dialogue meetings with the community on GBV & CP, children and parents who completed parenting without violence sessions and distribution of youth startup kit for cohort 2 among others. However, as a remedy, SCJ fronted the role of CPCs to managing community based issues arising. To note is that by the time of project closure, all project activities had been completed.

Project evaluation framework (Key findings)

The evaluation exercise utilized the OECD framework¹⁰ of Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact and sustainability. The matrix below summarizes the findings under each of the framework elements

Monitoring Criteria	M&E team Observations and suggestions for project improvement
Relevance	<p>This established the extent to which the intervention activities suited the priorities and policies of the government of Uganda, refugee/host communities, Save the Children Japan and the donor agency (Japan Platform). Over all, the project was marked as highly relevant to the needs of target groups and in line with the guiding documents to the South Sudan humanitarian response as detailed below</p> <p>The livelihood program being implemented by SCJ in Rwamwanja settlement is in line with strategic objective 3 in the refugee response plan 2019-2020 which looks at response partners shifting from care and maintenance to inclusion and</p>

¹⁰ <http://www.oecd.org/dac/>

	<p>self-reliance through the development of individual capacities and promotion of a conducive environment for livelihood opportunities.</p> <p>Case management: The RRP 2019/2020 under the child protection sectoral plan also calls upon partners to continue to strengthen case management systems through emphasis on case prioritization and workforce skills development. SCJ implements to strengthen case management and is guided by the child protection minimum standards-a global tool from the alliance for child protection in humanitarian action.</p> <p>Furthermore, the RRP's goal is also aimed at supporting and strengthening government institutional capacity to respond to emergencies. SCJ is contributing to this effort through a Systems strengthening approach of engaging community and district stakeholders to take the lead in child protection with the ultimate goal of ensuring sustainability.</p> <p>The refugee and the host communities</p> <p>Discussions with the youth aged 15-25 years from one of the livelihood groups in Rwamwanja RS confirmed that they wanted to engage in areas of baking, saloon, - and small business operation, and these are the areas that SCI is working on to provide startup kits. This initiative in the youth skilling project aims at providing immediate relief to household needs as per the refugee response plan's strategic objective 3¹¹ on livelihoods.</p>
<p>Effectiveness</p>	<p>Measured the extent to which the project attained the intended objectives. This emphasized objective targets and indicators by comparing baseline status with the current status. The effectiveness of the processes of implementation were also analyzed.</p> <p>Although at the time of the evaluation visit some of the project activities were still being implemented, the result tracking matrix clearly indicates that JPF2 is on track to achieving the intended outputs, and subsequently, the intended outcomes. To recap, the following are the project components, their respective objectives and implementation processes which are further analyzed against effectiveness.</p> <p>Component 1: Individual support (Case management) and strengthening community mechanisms to prevent and respond to child protection concerns</p>

¹¹ Revised Uganda Refugee Response Plan (July 2020-December 2021) pg8

Component 1 Objective: Children with protection concerns and those at risk are appropriately protected through individual support with a strong focus on GBV cases, and by strengthened community protection mechanisms in coordination with government organizations.

- SCJ child protection staff conduct 1 or 2 days capacity building sessions for case workers and carry out on-job training for the same through direct handling of child protection cases as they watch and learn. Complex cases are shared at sector level for solutions. This had improved the capacity of caseworkers to manage cases.
- To strengthen the child protection system to respond and prevent violence against children, SCJ closely worked with the probation officer and Senior Community Development Officers during foster care placement and monitoring, drafting of district level referral pathways as well as facilitating their involvement in settlement level child protection (CP) meetings.
- Since the largest program component was to be implemented in Rwamwanja RS and with the closing of the borders, all staff were transferred to Rwamwanja RS to support Casework. By the time of our visit a total of 20 case workers were supposed to be present but the evaluation team found 16 and 4 had left the organization, thus compromising the case management standard from 1:25 to 1:31 which is still outside the recommended 1: 25 by the CP IASC guide on minimum standards¹². Target was 1200 children and SCJ reached out to - 1093 children (530 boys, 562 girls) -cumulatively from April 2020 to February 2021 (both closed and open cases), - by end of February and only 577 open cases existed giving a ratio of 1:36. These cases were expected to go lower to 503 after case closure. It was noted however that the contextually agreeable case load per case worker in a year including new cases and closures is up to 75 according to the Case Management task force (CMTF) that SCI co – chairs with HCR.
- It was also noted that whereas caseworkers are charged with identification, management and referral of cases, alongside other community based child protection committee structures, their productivity is hindered by a wide range of issues such as the size of the caseload, time spent walking from home to home due to limited transportation means, limited airtime support to CPCs to report cases, limited motivation to CPCs, parents ignorance about child rights

¹² Minimum standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian action (Standard 15 page 135)).
http://www.cpcnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/CM_guidelines_ENG_.pdf

(that they end up silencing the violations) and strong negative social norms towards girl child education. Important to note is that JPF3 funding took bicycles for caseworkers into consideration.

Component 2: Promoting child and Youth protection through implementation of Child Friendly Spaces.

- To implement the November recommendation on age appropriate skilling, SCJ made adjustments to provide age appropriate mentoring in baking, -saloon and small business operation to the 2 different enrolled cohorts. No major changes were made to the 1st cohort that was already engaged in economic activities before the recommendation, but alterations in terms of age appropriate interventions were made to Cohort 2 after a re-screening exercise to determine eligibility and not to contradict the existing guiding tools on youth¹³ engagement while giving them holistic development choices to make informed decisions that affect them and their families. Those in School were to be supported individually with involvement of their caregivers/parents while those out of school were to be supported in groups.

Component 2 Objective: Safe and comfortable spaces for vulnerable children to have the opportunity to build their cognitive and social skills and obtain the emotional support they require through peer to peer groups.

- With the Covid lockdown, SCJ had to extend CFS services to children through a home based PSS model. This model was implemented by CFS facilitators who were paired to engage at least 5 households per hour for 3 hours a day. Children were able to continue accessing PSS support through play and recreation activities within their home environment. However, it was noted through a FGD with caseworkers, that parents still have low morale towards education and PSS interventions and question the facilitators thus; “.but you have been coming to teach my children and I know your salary depends on these children, when are you bringing me “water¹⁴”?”....such attitudes from parents coupled with the long covid lockdown pushed children into child labour, early marriage and dropping out of school. Out of the total 2240 children that were targeted to be reached through CFS ceteris paribus, 4594 (2,275 boys,

¹³ A youth in Uganda is a person who is aged 18–30 years (UBOS 2017), also visit the social development sector plan (SDSP) 2015-2020 and the Children (Amendment) Act of 2016

¹⁴ Literally meaning money or drinking water.

	<p>2319 girls) were reached cumulatively through home based programming. On a monthly basis about 2000 to 2487 children are engaged - Thus the approach used was viewed as effective in terms of numbers, which however, more than doubled the target leaving questions of quality and under targeting as a whole. Due to the dire need for specialized mental health PSS services exacerbated by the Covid19 lockdown, as noted from FGDs with PSGs and Children, and remains a required service by the community, SCJ had to subcontract Tutapona a CBO with technical knowledge in clinical psychology to support the children that have undergone traumatic experiences. Tutapona engaged 271 children (135girls, 136boys) in groups through the child friendly spaces using the Hero's journey model.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To increase access to CFS indoor and outdoor activities, 2 classroom blocks at Mahega and Kyempango D were constructed. In addition, 5 latrines of 3 stances each at Kyempango A,B,D, Baraka, Mahega, Wijagahe, Hewabora and Karambo child friendly spaces. All construction was complete except for Mahega that had defects which were being corrected by the contractor before March 31st 2021. The facilities had not yet been put to use by children except for the volunteer and peer to peer meetings, since all centers were under lockdown due to Covid-19. <p>Status of Component Objective Performance indicator; The status of progress of each of the performance indicators for the component objectives is presented in the results matrix table in the Annex 1 (please refer for details).</p>
<p>Efficiency</p>	<p>Measured the value for money of the intervention by comparing the volume of resources utilized during the intervention and the outputs achieved. The following are the key findings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The intervention managed to achieve most of the targets for the output and outcome indicators. A number of outputs are above the minimum target set at the beginning of the intervention, which is an indication of high level of efficiency. However, this also raise the question of target settings at the design stage of the project, given the fact that Save the Children has been working in the area for several years and must have gained good experience and understanding of the context to set more precise targets.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The continuation of JPF2 built on JPF1 and ensured continued monitoring of outputs achieved under JPF1. This reinforced the outputs for the achievement of maximum outcomes. 3. Currently there’s only one staff at each transit center charged with vast roles ranging from monitoring, contingency planning, coordination, supporting case management for host communities around the transit centres affected by Covid 19 to supporting systems strengthening at the district level. According to OPM and district officials, however, it was noted that the SCJ staff was overwhelmed and could not be in two places at the same time. This has resulted in missing some coordination meetings while attending to other duty calls. This creates inefficiency and raises questions on timeliness and quality of services offered to the persons targeted. 4. In terms of time, the intervention took longer than planned due to disruption caused by Covid 19 pandemic and election period in the country. In this regard therefore, these external factors somehow affected project efficiency and SCJ had to acquire two non-cost extensions to cover up for the lost time. 5. Tutapona a PSS INGO was regarded as self-motivated, accurate and responded in time to the mental health needs of the cases identified or referred by SCJ. They conducted physical and phone call follow ups. This quickened results realization. “Things to do with counselling, Tutapona was the best”...a SCJ caseworker intervened. This worked well for the children that were targeted but the service lasted just for 7 contractual months (June to December 2020).
<p>Impacts</p>	<p>Examined the positive/negative, direct/indirect, and intended/unintended effects of the intervention results on the local social, economic, environmental and other development dimensions.</p> <p>Much as some of the activities were still being implemented at the time of the evaluation visit due to the delay caused by Covid 19 infection in the office that led to a temporary closure, through FGDs, KIIs and life interest stories with stakeholders/beneficiaries, the following immediate impacts were noted from the already completed activities; however, there will be need for a quantitative impact study despite the following observations;</p>

1. According to a FGD with SCJ staff and PSG the intervention resulted into character building and positive change of attitude in both the settlement and the host communities on issues affecting children.
2. According to CPCs there has been a considerable reduction in cases of child abuse such as physical abuse and early marriage of young girls.
3. Discussions with Youth undergoing the life skills training indicated that there had been improvement on their self-esteem and assertiveness.
4. Sensitization sessions conducted with parents enhanced a sense of responsibility to uphold child rights among parents in both the settlement and the host communities. This was previously perceived as the responsibility of response agencies in the protection sector.
5. Similarly, the awareness creation on child rights and protection resulted in increased participation of the community (both adults and children) in protecting children. For instance, in both the settlement and the host communities, both adults and children freely report cases and children are also empowered to a point that they report cases even where parents are the perpetrator. It is important to note however that men's participation in these dialogues is still limited and a different approach is required to get them on board.
6. The cross-sectoral nature of this JPF funding resulted in improved inter-sectoral coordination between protection and livelihood sectors i.e. the intervention has both protection and livelihood components.
7. Many of the youth who received livelihood training were able to open businesses from which they earn their livelihoods. The evaluation team was able to visit some of the youth who were involved in restaurant operation, bakery, palm oil retail trade among others.
8. With most of the construction works at CFS completed, children are bound to have access to a more equipped, secure and safe centre where they have the opportunity to both play and learn. This however will only come when restriction on gathering due to Covid 19 pandemic is lifted.
9. Tutapona: They were able to break speech barriers that existed between caseworkers and their identified clients; for example one of the SCJ staff reported “a girl that never allowed to speak to the caseworkers, spoke after Tutapona’s intervention”.

Unintended Impact

	<p>10. Due to Covid 19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdown resulting into closure of borders, including with DRC, SCJ had to re-align some of its activities for the team in Matanda and Nyakabande transit centres to focus on preparedness for when the border opens and case management response to child protection cases in the hosting districts. As a result, the following were realized.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) The team was able to respond to a number of child protection related cases in refugee hosting communities. For instance, in Matanda transit location, a total of 153 cases of child protection were responded to and 156 in Nyakabande. In addition to provision of psychosocial support, some of the cases also received non-food items (NFIs) through direct and indirect support. ii) The response capacity of the districts to respond to Covid and Ebola was also improved. This was through training of health workers. A total of 21 health workers were trained in Kanungu district (Matanda) and 36 in Nyakabande. Further, 74 teachers were also training on Covid 19 and Ebola response and preparedness in Matanda. In Kanungu district (Matanda) 70 village health teams were trained on Covid 19 and Ebola response. Health facilities and schools also received response kits such as personal protection equipment (PPE), hand sanitizer among others. <p>Home based learning and Home based PSS: CFS Facilitators were able to deal with other child protection concerns that ended into direct management or referral to caseworkers. Sometimes this resulted in cancellation of the day's lessons because they had to attend to other emergency child violation cases.</p> <p>Facilitators were able to build rapport with parents and children and get to understand their learning needs through use of TeamUp, HEART and general CFS approaches to play and recreation; which helped children build resilience and cope with stress through personalized learning to children. With children resuming school, facilitators are better positioned to support the children and make learning more child focused.</p>
<p>Sustainability</p>	<p>Assessed whether the benefits of the project achieved so far are likely to continue after the end of implementation of project activities.</p>

	<p>The following measures/strategies were embedded in the project to ensure sustainability of the results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project ensured that the district protection team was part of the intervention. For instance, the district probation officer and community development officers based in the community at sub-county level participated in planning, implementation and monitoring of activities. In addition to the project providing training district staff, UNHCR has also sub-granted the district to play their roles in the refugee response programme. This can ensure that any gap that could arise as a result of phasing out of the project could still be filled by the resources within the district and other partners' systems. It should be noted however the OPM in the RS and TC indicated less involvement in the construction projects. • Furthermore, for future programming, the district social services sector was considering realigning its priorities in the district development plan for resource mobilization in order to fill the gap that might otherwise be left behind when save the children closes out. • Involvement of children and youth in age appropriate skills created an ever lasting impression on children and youth who are able to make informed decisions for their mental, social and economic development. • Having fronted CPCs to manage cases at community level during the Covid-19 lockdown created a sense of comfort/esteem among the CPCs that came with trust from the beneficiaries as a result of constant engagement.
<p>Core Humanitarian Standards</p>	<p>Humanitarian intervention is guided by four core principles, which are humanity, impartiality, independence and neutrality. Save the children is conforming to the criterion that underpin the core principles.</p> <p>Regarding the operationalization of standards on quality and accountability, SCJ was carrying out continuous on-job capacity building for new staff and caseworkers though 4 caseworkers had to leave Save the Children Japan and were never replaced to keep the case management standard in check.</p>

Recommendations

The following recommendations are proposed to guide the remaining period (extended period) of implementation and any other similar or planned intervention in Rwamwanja refugee settlement, Nyakabande and Matanda Reception Centres.



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1. It is recommended that where construction work is involved, Save the Children should constantly remind and engage the office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and UNHCR to carry out site monitoring as it falls under their docket. This came as a result of complaints from the OPM that they were not actively involved in monitoring some of the construction works after sight handover in the settlement and at the transit centre especially in Rwamwanja RS and Nyakabande TC. Related to construction, Save the Children is also advised to source local contractors to provide more opportunity in the hosting community/district.
2. Save the Children should ensure that for each project, it conducts an inception meeting at the commencement and end of project debrief with the stakeholders. This should be ensured even when funding from the same source is continuing for a similar intervention in the same location as the case with JPF funding. This will ensure a smooth transition of projects, even when funding ends. This recommendation is proposed following stakeholders not remembering participation in any such meeting, including when monitoring or evaluation reports are shared, as was the case with previous visit in November 2020 in which JPF shared the report and urged Save the Children to do the same with the stakeholders. It was however indicated by SCJ that due to Covid 19 crisis, online kick off meetings were held with officials who later left the settlement and could not attend to our interviews.
3. UNHCR's need to centralize, manage and report on efforts directed towards children by different partners dealing with case management, led to the introduction of ProGress V4 which is currently being utilized by UNHCR implementing partners but because SCI wasn't able to log in for 3 months after introduction of the system, UNHCR is tasked with creating new access codes for SCI and training them on its functionality. It's on this background that SCJ was required by the coordinating agency UNHCR to realign their data intake to ProGress V4 system for proper case management. This however should not disregard the importance of CPIMS as an internal case management tool which is being used by the M&E section that has done a remarkable job with the system in evidence based reporting.
4. The youth who completed mentorship programmes under JPF2 need further mentorship as they just started their business operations. This can be factored into JPF3 funding that has been approved and it imperative to sustain results achieved already by working on what is planned in the future given the challenges faced during the period of implementation. Therefore, if mentorship is not factored in JPF3 already, then it should be given the necessary consideration.
5. Currently there are only 2 staff distributed between Nyakabande and Matanda border posts. As part of the contingency plan, given what the M&E team observed and from the interview with police at the border post at Matanda, there is a need to complete the contingency plan by having standby staff to support with screening of children cases at the border posts in case of sudden influx (which is highly likely given the reports on conflict situation in DRC).



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6. Given the dwindling funding situation as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic, SCJ needs to consider widening its funding sources through advocacy campaigns, as well as create synergies with other partners (in case of limited funding), so as to continue contributing to the multi-sectoral access to services by targeted beneficiaries.
7. Regarding individual and group MHPSS and the enormous need for it in the community, save the children could continue with subcontracting specialized psychosocial services for the children where funds allow; otherwise create synergies with projects with similar interventions.
8. As partners direct efforts to streamlining case management, a backup strategy at the household level of providing service cards to beneficiaries could eliminate instances of service duplication and help in organizational accountability when it comes to referrals and actions taken. Also as backup plan to sustaining case management outcomes, it would be ideal to provide livelihood support to those who have transitioned to adulthood. This will reduce the financial burden on households and promote good relations between these new adults and their caregivers.
9. With staff leaving and new joining, there's a need for JPF to support a monthly budget on staff capacity building in child protection and encourage continuous learning and be in touch with CP national trends. Thus continuous internal capacity needs assessment should be carried out periodically and in cases where budget allows, extend to the other like-minded partners.
10. Improving the working conditions of the caseworkers in terms of remuneration, mobility, and knowledge acquisition will increasingly contribute to achievement of results for children in a timely and quality manner. Working with the sector to devise means of motivating the CPCs (minimum package) that is sustainable will quicken the achievement of the systems strengthening goals.
11. Joint implementation of similar activities by partners will help avail more time to community based structures who would be engaged in mobilization for partners from time to time to do other productive things. Through sharing work plans and creating a weekly plan at sector level where all like-minded partners can attend would create answers to more questions and challenges that arise from the community regarding children's rights and responsibilities. The work plans should be shared with CPCs for timely mobilization of the stakeholders.

For JPF

1. JPF should allow partners to update the target figures or even budget plan after mid-term review



Conclusion

Overall, the intervention (JPF2) can be rated as a success, despite all the challenges that it has faced and the team in both Ramanja, Nyakabande and Matanda handle the complex challenges very well. Therefore much as the project did not perform well in term of time efficiency given the aforementioned challenges (which is understandable), it is further emphasized here that the team consider acting on the recommendations herein proposed to guarantee sustainability of the output and outcomes.



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6. SAVE THE CHILDREN_SSD PROJECT EVALUATION REPORT

Project summary

program name	South Sudan Refugee Emergency Assistance				
Project	Protection of Children of South Sudanese Refugees in Northwestern Uganda Child Protection for Displaced South Sudanese Children in North West Uganda				
Start date	October 1, 2020	End date	January 31, 2021 Non cost ext. 30 th March 2021	Days	181 Days
Organization name	Save the Children		Contact name	Takunori Matsumura	

Introduction

Japan Platform undertook an evaluation visit to Save the Children Japan, a JPF member partner implementing a systems strengthening project in Rhino Camp refugee settlements in Madi-Okollo and in host communities in Arua district. The visit focused on verifying whether the humanitarian principles and standards were being respected by the project at different implementation stages; understanding beneficiary satisfaction; analyzing the impact of the project with the available data; providing technical advice and feedback to the project improvement; and identifying additional technical assistance and other resources that may be needed. The M&E team that was composed of two members, namely; Arinaitwe Fatuma (Protection, Education & M&E) and Kica Richard Ocaya (M&E, WASH, Protection, health & education); presents the report findings in line with the purpose of the visit and JPF commitments for people in humanitarian crises.

Background

As of February 2021, Rhino Camp settlement hosted 122,501¹⁵ persons of concern, children and women taking 81% of the overall refugee population. New arrivals from DRC received at the reception center are taken to Omugo zone 4 according to the OPM. The population also keeps growing because of newborns and the reception center, which has been a Covid-19 quarantine center in the recent past, is open for continuous registration of newborns. Households are settled

¹⁵ <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/85483>



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on a 20 by 30 meters plot (OPM). The main protection/child protection partner is Danish Refugee Council (DRC) in Rhino Camp settlement implementing on behalf of UNHCR. Other partners in child protection include PLAN Uganda, International Rescue Committee – IRC, Trans – cultural Psychosocial Organization Uganda – TPO (U), Humanity and Inclusion (HI) and Save the Children Japan SCJ. These are allocated different zones to ensure fair distribution of services and to avoid service duplication.

According to OPM, Rhino Camp settlement is facing donor fatigue amidst the rampant child protection issues such as Child labour, child neglect, teenage pregnancy, SGBV cases, marginalized cases, medical chronic illnesses, lack of refugee status; which have also been amplified by the level of poverty at household level and Covid-19 pandemic. According to UNHCR, Danish Refugee Council which is the main implementing partner for UNHCR has limited funding when it comes to provision of individual case management services and systems strengthening efforts and this has continued to negatively impact the timely response to referred cases. To leverage the capacities of the existing partners, different zones of operation have been provided and out of 7 zones existing, SCJ concentrates in Eden zone villages I, II, IV, & VI while other CP partners take on other settlement zones including Omugo which is a Rhino extension. Using other funding sources, Save the Children also operates in other zones of Omugo 3,4,5,6, Ofua 1,2,3,4,5,6 and Odobu 1&2. The coordinating agency UNHCR indicated that there's still struggle to harmonize strategies on how community based child protection structures (community development officers –CDOs, community based volunteers) are engaged in order not to cripple the subsequent partners and as well work towards sustainability. Different partners run different sub structures at community level, resulting from their organogram in order to effectively achieve planned targets. The November 2020 Rhino Camp settlement statistics indicate that 26% of the population in Rhino refugee settlement are young people between the age of 15 and 24 and 60% are children some of whom are school dropouts, child mothers or living alone thus being exposed to a different level of protection risks in the community such as drug abuse, child labour and children in conflict /contact with the law. SCJ project aimed at strengthening community capacity to sustainably respond to child protection issues as and when they arise. Children, parents and community based child protection structures were engaged at different levels to instill sentiments of ownership and finding local solutions within the normative framework.

Methodology

This section presents the evaluation design and strategy, study population and respondents, sample size, sampling methods, and data collection, processing and analysis.

Research design and method: the evaluation applied a *qualitative method* with a *cross-sectional design* as a strategy. Qualitative design collected narratives that were used to answer the evaluation questions. The cross-sectional design ensured the collection of data from the identified respondents at only one point in time to answer the evaluation questions.



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Study population and respondents: The evaluation population and the respondents were refugees/or host community living in Rhino Camp refugee settlement in Madi-Okollo District, North Western Uganda. Respondents were selected from both the refugees and stakeholders involved with the refugee response in the settlement.

Sample selection and size: The respondents were sampled purposively. This involved the selection of respondents based on their status as a refugee/host community and being in the location targeted by the project, and also being a stakeholder relevant to the project and the Child Protection sector. A total of 29 respondents were covered by the assessment. Full list is attached in the Annex.

Data collection, processing and analysis: The data for the assessment was collected using an unstructured questionnaire, focus group discussion and observation. The data was processed through re-writing and editing, and analyzed through content and thematic methods.

Project implementation status

During the previous monitoring visit in November/December 2020, the project was scheduled to end 31st January 2021, however, during the current visit, it was established that non-cost extension up to March 30th, 2021 had been approved as a result of limited available resource and time conflict among local government stakeholders and election period in Uganda in January, which further disrupted the smooth completion of the pending activities.

In addition, during the previous monitoring visit in November/December 2020, the following recommendations were proposed for action by SCJ and stakeholders in the protection sector. Below are the status of their implementation:

1. Save the Children needs to strengthen the system for tracking results of the intervention. At this stage, the focus of the system should be based on outputs from the activities. At the time of the monitoring visit, there was no evidence of such a system in place.
Status: Implemented but further action required to improve the tracking database. For instance, outcome indicators are being measured at absolute number instead of percentage.
2. It was evident that partners in child protection in Rhino Camp settlement, including Save the Children, are setting up and working with parallel structures other than the nationally approved such as the CPCs, which should have been in the lead – Save the Children were to work with partners in the sector to ensure harmonization to sustain outcomes of the intervention.

Status: The child protection working group at settlement and national level are working on harmonization of processes to engage community based child protection structures for sustainability purposes. The sector at settlement level has come up with SoPs on how to engage with Child Protection Committees (CPCs) - their incentive package, their selection -composition (7 to 10 members per village of 1500 to 2000 persons), code of conduct among other procedures. At the national child protection coordination level, partners are



working on rolling down the child protection systems strengthening approaches that will involve all partners and leave no one behind

3. Further training and/mentorship is recommended for the already trained community based child protection structures such as the CPCs and the para-social workers to improve on their technical skills/competencies with emphasis on case management, referral pathway, key family care practices, communication skills and basic counselling skills.

Status: Implemented: CPCs were trained on parenting without violence – a SC common approach in February 2021. Other training received comprised; alternative care monitoring, best interest determination and child protection in emergencies; which lasted for 3 days. The RWCs noted that there's a need for further training in child protection.

4. The monitoring team also observed imbalance in the gender composition of the structures, especially the CPCs and the para-social workers with the majority being men. This needs to be balanced for an effective and gender sensitive case response system.

Status: Not implemented. The number of men remain more interested in voluntary work than the women.

5. There's a need to consider a wider audience for parenting without violence sensitization other than foster care families alone.

Status: Implemented. SCJ included children at risk and their parents in the sessions for PwV.

6. SCJ is advised to carry out inception meetings for every new project with stakeholders for purposes of feedback and ownership of the project.

Status: End of project evaluation and inception meetings with stakeholders remain a recommendation for realization through which implementation gaps that may arise between programs could be covered by other partners. SCJ indicated that this will start with the ending of the project and commencement of implementation of JPF8 in April 2021.

7. An impact study/assessment may be required for the previous JPF funding 1-6 phases in order to register/ document beneficiary satisfaction and project impact over the years.

Status: Implemented and draft report shared with the M&E team during the visit. Final report to be shared with JPF headquarter.

8. There's a need to strengthen police response to CP issues reported. A weakness in a subsystem will most likely affect the intended results by the system.

Status: Discussion on the best approach ongoing in the working group. It was noted that Police still ask for bribes to forfeit some defilement cases that reach their desks. The police from the settlement posts of Uryama, Rigbo, Omugo, Siripi, Tika and Odobu however had been trained in the children's diversion guidelines.



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Project evaluation framework (Key findings)

The evaluation exercise utilized the OECD framework of Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact and sustainability. The matrix below summarises the findings under each of the framework elements

Evaluation Criteria	M&E team Observations and suggestions for project improvement
<p>Relevance</p>	<p>This established the extent to which the intervention activities suited the priorities and policies of the government of Uganda, refugee/host communities, SCJ and the donor agency (Japan Platform)</p> <p>The National Refugee Response Plan (RRP) goal is aimed at supporting and strengthening government institutional capacity to respond to emergencies. SCJ is contributing to this effort through a child protection systems strengthening approach by strengthening community based child protection networks, strengthening coordination at sub – national and settlement level of child protection actors, capacity building of the social welfare workforce including of child protection and like-minded partners, engaging children, foster parents and community leaders to ensure a sustainable response to community child protection issues.</p> <p>Save the Children Japan activities geared to strengthening the child protection system for refugee and host community children through empowered Community-based Child Protection Mechanism and government systems in Arua and Madi-Okollo were aligned to the REHOPE strategy and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) sustainability strategies.</p> <p>It was evident that through the previous interventions by Save the Children Japan/ JPF Funding and other funding sources and other partners’ intervention in the emergency response, structures to prevent and respond to child protection issues were established with in the host and refugee communities. The stakeholders at all levels (community and partners) have however acknowledged both structural and technical capacity gaps/weaknesses that need to be strengthened for improved child protection interventions, which is where the project comes in handy.</p> <p>Overall, the intervention is relevant to the needs of the refugees and the host communities, the refugee response policy of the government of Uganda, the aspiration of Japan Platform (JPF) and Save the Children Japan Uganda Program.</p>

Effectiveness

The evaluation of the intervention in determining the level of effectiveness focused on the objective outcome status. With a non-cost extension of the intervention up to the end of March 2021 after the previous monitoring visit in December 2020, the focus of the evaluation had to be tweaked to outputs achieved and their qualities, models or processes utilized for the realization of the intended outcomes. The team also reviewed some of the outcome indicators coming out of the already achieved outputs. The project effectiveness was measured as being on track except for the case management support which had only 10% achieved out of the 400 targeted output.

The main purpose/objective of this JPF7 intervention was to strengthen community led child protection mechanisms aligned with District Child protection systems to provide timely, appropriate prevention and response services relevant to the needs of children and families including COVID-19 affected families. Progress towards achievement of this objective were measured through a number of output indicators for the various activities undertaken and how they were undertaken. This is presented in the results matrix in Appendix 1 below.

The result matrix indicates that as of January 31, 2021, most of the targets had been achieved. However some of the targets had been over achieved. This indicates a problem with target setting at the design stage of the project and the fact that targets were not revised for the non-cost extension period.

Project complementarity through sharing of resources from JPF 6 such as community radios turned out effective in a way that many community members were reached with child protection messages amidst the corona pandemic lockdown. However, the community raised the need for more radios as there existed only one radio in Eden which was inaudible to those staying 50 to 100 meters radius from the stations.

At least 40 CPCs/Parasocial workers had a curriculum training for parasocial workers conducted by SCJ and these are expected to voluntarily support community child protection work such as referrals, organizing community dialogues among others, however there are still challenges of commitment partly because they work alongside other paid structures doing same or related duties such as identification and reporting of cases in the community. Partners were yet to agree on motivation strategies for CPCs.

	<p>The parenting without violence sessions were facilitated by CPCs and parasocial workers which strengthened their relationship with the community members making it easy for the community to acknowledge and confide in CPCs regarding child rights violations.</p> <p>There's noted complementarity from DRC in Eden zone regarding GBV cases. Whereas SCJ is implementing activities in Eden Zone, DRC is charged with general protection and with specific interest in SGBV and so when cases are identified, SCJ does the needs assessment and forwards to DRC for legal support to ensure holistic service provision. During a FGD with girls, it was however noted that Eden two had most teenage pregnancies registered due to the long Covid19 lock down period. The girls indicated that about 9 cases of pregnancy had dropped out of primary school education.</p> <p>Overall, on the basis of the outputs achieved and testimonies of the beneficiaries and stakeholders the project is well on its way to achieving the intended objective targets and outcomes by the end of the extended implementation period.</p>
<p>Efficiency</p>	<p>The efficiency of the intervention was assessed in terms of the output achievement vis-a-vis human and financial resources, and time period of the implementation.</p> <p>First, the intervention did not perform well in terms of the initial scheduled project life. It has used more implementation time than initially planned to achieve outputs indicated in the Annex 1. However, this has been attributed to the disruption caused by Covid - 19 pandemic, holiday break during the month of December 2020 and election period in Uganda during the month of January 2021.</p> <p>Secondly, the limited number of technical officer (only one project officer with complete technical foundation in child protection) supported by other non-child protection staff could have impacted on the quality of outputs as he had a range of activities to undertake. For instance, he had to train persons involved with the different structure, mentor them, follow up on cases forwarded at his level and others, attend meetings, produce monthly and sector reports. This is overwhelming and he reported the same. For instance he was not able to take leave as normally scheduled</p>

	<p>Much as the project had fairly longer time than initially planned due to non-cost extensions, fewer cases were addressed than initially planned. The target was 400 cases responded to and supported. At the time of the evaluation, only 40 cases were responded to, which is far lower than planned. This could be attributable to setting higher target than feasible, poor definition/criteria for recognizing and recording of cases, and possibly reliance on case workers under other projects within Save the Children with such case workers having no direct accountability to JPF funding. This situation has led to under-utilization of the budget for case response. Such budget line could therefore be re-directed to other more productive activities within the project area.</p>
<p>Impact</p>	<p>Examined the positive/negative, direct/indirect, and intended/unintended effects of the intervention results on the local social, economic, environmental and other development dimensions.</p> <p>Although the implementation of some of the planned project activities were ongoing during the non-cost extension period, the following impact of the intervention were established:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In spite of the need to address some of the parallel functions of other response structures, especially in the settlement; the trained members of case workers, para-social workers and CPCs are actively involved in identifying and responding to cases in the communities (both host and refugee). They are also actively listening and providing necessary information, guiding and sensitizing members of the community on topics including parenting without violence. This sensitization is targeting both children and adult members of the community. ● The community leaders have been empowered to manage basic cases relating to issues of child abuse and neglect as well to refer cases of sexual violence to police. The response to cases however is weak on the host community side where at least 2 cases of defilement were said to be reported on a daily basis according to the PSW coordinator Rigbo sub-county, and that opinion leaders including police and LCs were involved in the disappearance of cases and in some instances perpetrators cross to neighboring districts of Amur; thus a need for further capacity building in case management for police, LCs, RWCs and CPCs. ● Through community level review meetings with CPCs organized by SCJ to discuss issues arising in community especially during lockdown, different partners were involved and this enabled quick action, feedback and accountability at different levels to the beneficiaries. It was noted however

	<p>from a FGD with girls that child protection issues such as forced marriage are still rampant though their parents/caregivers would tend to refuse SC’s intervention which hinders improvement of children’s wellbeing in the community. Continuous follow-up, as well as sector-wide and inter-agency approach needs to be strengthened. According to information from the OPM and DRC, there’s a positive outlook on people engaged with SCJ project behaviorally compared to other partner locations and locations with new arrivals through the parenting sessions held with them. Parent-child relations have significantly improved resulting in less family separations that end up in re-fostering.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The issuance of refreshments at every meeting held by SCJ through community structures paused a challenge to CPCs who could not move with refreshments to distant places for meetings with the community thus ending up with less participants. People have attached refreshments to attendance of meetings; less of which might affect attendance yet this is something that when these structures are left alone will not afford. Therefore SCJ was devising means of comfortably engaging the community in dialogues using readily available resources such as chapatti and tea locally made in a particular location. • Much as the selection of CPCs is term bound, their involvement is motivated by their inner experiences and aspirations to be good leaders, give back and relieve their own from suffering and ignorance. These even after their terms expire, could continue on a personal level for the love of it. • The girls trained in making sanitary pads are now able to make their own, however, the girls said that the sanitation situation at school is not that favorable, so they requested partners for washrooms, buckets and soap to make it better. They also complained about boys laughing at them when they notice that a girl is in her periods thus the need to have involved boys in such training since they covered other topics such as early pregnancy and violence against children.
<p>Sustainability</p>	<p>Assessed whether the benefits of the project achieved so far are likely to continue after the end of implementation of project activities</p> <p>To sustain the outcomes of the project, the following measures were identified:</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community based-child protection structures are equipped with relevant child protection knowledge and skills that would allow them to identify and respond to cases even after the intervention is concluded. Some of these structures e.g. the CPCs, CMCs and PSGs are charged with cascading knowledge and setting violence prevention by-laws such as not fetching water at night; to prevent abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence in the community in which they live. These, multiple structures doing the same or related roles, however, have different demands ranging from visibility to cash as means motivation; which if not streamlined might interfere with the existence of some. 2. The involvement of district stakeholders such as community development officers, probation and welfare officers to oversee participation in the implementation of the project in the community and the settlement means a continuation of responses to cases even after the project team no longer operate in the community. The district team in particular will be essential in ensuring sustained capacity (knowledge, practices and skills) of the community structures. 3. Children in foster care are involved in parenting without violence sessions to stress their roles and responsibilities and as well educate them about child protection. This has resulted in stronger relations between the foster child and foster parent according to the CPCs. However, it was noted that adolescents that have been under this arrangement and clock the age of 18, in most cases don't have a sustainable long term goal to lift the needs burden off the foster parents. For example parents indicated the need for support in terms of livelihood, housing as well as menstrual hygiene support to make the transition to adulthood even easier.
<p>Core Humanitarian Standards</p>	<p>Humanitarian intervention is guided by four core principles, which are humanity, impartiality, independence and neutrality. Save the children is conforming to the criterion that underpin the core principles.</p> <p>Whereas Save the Children is compliant to the 9 core humanitarian standards, it was raised by UNHCR that SCJ needed to increasingly motivate the caseworkers as they do the core work with children when it comes to case management. This group of people need to be viewed as staff for SCJ not volunteers as a way of motivating them. Save the Children has a code of conduct which all staff and volunteers are expected to adhere to.</p>



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Recommendations

The following recommendations are proposed to guide the ongoing implementation of the project:

1. For subsequent projects, including JPF8, there is a need for Save the Children to use its experience in the response over the years to set realistic output targets for the different intervention components. This is emanating from the over and underachievement of some of the targets for the current project.
2. Similarly, the monitoring and evaluation team need to further improve the results tracking framework by tracking both outcomes and outputs at its appropriate unit of measurement. For instance, outcome indicators are being measured at absolute number instead of percentage.
3. There is a need to review the staffing/human resources arrangement for similar projects in the future (especially the currently approved JPF8). At minimum, given the nature of activities undertaken under JPF7 and the fact that JPF8 is more or less an extension of JPF7, two staff should be assigned to ensure quality activity implementation and outputs.
4. Much as it is important to strengthen the child protection system in both the settlement and the host communities, it is recommended that subsequent intervention should in addition focus efforts on the school and community structural links to strengthen referral and follow up of cases that fall between school and community to safeguard against children falling through the cracks. It will be beneficial if both the school and the community (Host and settlement) coordinate to provide an equally strong ring of protection to children.
5. To further strengthen the capacity of the system, there is a need to further train the case workers, CPC, RWCs, and include other key persons like LCs in protection related issues that can be identified upon close consultation on the gaps they would like filled. This can take the form of refresher training and mentorship by the project team.
6. As a working group, there is a need to speed up the discussion and have a consensus on the child protection structure to be supported in both the settlement and the host communities. This discussion can best be informed by the national consensus of what should constitute a child protection structure at local government level and in the refugee settlements.
7. SCJ is requested to have inception and end project evaluation meetings with stakeholders. By so doing, gaps that result from project ending could be picked up by other partners but also coordination and accountability is strengthened.
8. District involvement by Save the Children was unconventional to UNHCR which indicated that they were already supporting District with monitoring funds yet finding it hard to engage them because Save the Children had a side budget to facilitate them even more. It's against this background that SCJ needs to streamline their district engagements with other partners especially UNHCR.



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9. JPF was requested to have longer term funding for partners in order to make planning easy for the partners and check staff turnover. Project funding starts in April to March every year and so for partners to get longer funding they need to tap into the start of the year. But also there's a JPF supplementary budget that starts anytime and ends March 31st each year, that partners can tap in
10. JPF7 was utilizing community radios from JPF 6 which worked as an effective platform to deliver community messages, however, the radio waves cannot go beyond 50 meters radios thus limiting listenership. In the subsequent funding, SCJ is advised to have more community radios for greater listenership and strengthened community knowledge about children's rights.
11. There's a need for livelihood support interventions for the adolescents who crossed to 18 years of adulthood and their foster parents in order to sustain support from caregivers. Menstrual hygiene interventions in schools need to be given a deeper look for future intervention.
12. There's a need to uplift the level of case workers from "volunteer" status to SCJ staff because they deal with the main population target for Save the Children and get at a personal level with the children; an effort that cannot be under looked when it comes to case management.

Conclusion

With the exception of the number of cases supported (currently only 10%, at the end of the project: 45%), joint action plans developed by community structure and local authorities (25%, at the end of the project 100%), and presence of SoPs for referral pathways, the intervention has achieved high output performance in other areas of the indicators. The project team therefore has to exert maximum efforts to work on some of the pending activities and recommendations herein proposed. An opportunity to strengthen outcomes for the outputs achieved and to be achieved is the approval of JPF8, which ensures continuity of similar intervention in the same project location in Eden Zone of the Rhino camp Refugee Settlement.



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7. PLAN_SSD Refugee Response (RHINO) Monitoring and Evaluation Report

Project summary

program name	Humanitarian Response to South Sudan Conflict				
Project	Protecting Vulnerable and Conflict-Affected Children and Youth in Rhino Refugee Settlement and the Neighboring Host-Communities, Arua District, Uganda				
Start date	31 March 2020	End date	31 March 2020 to 31 December 2020 (Non-cost extended to 28 February 2021)	Days	276 days (335 days)
Organization name	Plan International Japan		Contact name	Megumi MICHİYAMA	

Introduction

Japan Platform undertook a monitoring and evaluation visit to PLAN Japan, a JPF member partner implementing a case management project in Rhino refugee settlements found in Arua district. The visit focused on verifying whether the humanitarian principles and standards were being respected; understanding beneficiary satisfaction; analyzing the impact of the project with the available data; providing technical advice and feedback to the project improvement; and identifying additional technical assistance and other resources that may be needed. The M&E team that was composed of two members, namely; Arinaitwe Fatuma (Protection, Education & M&E) and Kica Richard Ocaya (M&E, WASH, Protection, health & education); presents the report findings in line with the purpose of the visit and JPF commitments for people in humanitarian crises.

Background

According to OPM, Rhino settlement now hosts 121800 persons of concern and the population keeps growing because of newborn babies. There is going to be continuous registration at the reception center which has been a quarantine center in the recent past. Households are settled on a 20 by 30 meters plot. The main protection/child protection partner is Danish Refugee Council (DRC) in Rhino settlement implementing for UNHCR. Other partners in child protection include PLAN, IRC, TPO and SCI. These are allocated different zones to avoid duplication of services and to ensure persons of concern have access to services equally much as covid19 restrictions affected most partner activity implementation. Plan International is implementing activities in 3



zones of Ocea, Ariiwa and Ofua in the villages of Ofua 6 & 4, Ariaze B, and Ocea C in Rhino Settlement.

Problem Statement

According to OPM, Rhino settlement is facing donor fatigue amidst the rampant child protection issues such as Child labour, child neglect, teenage pregnancy, SGBV cases, marginalized cases, medical chronic illnesses, lack of refugee status; which have also been amplified by the level of poverty at household level and Corona pandemic. Danish Refugee Council which is the main implementing partner for UNHCR has limited funding when it comes to case management and in most cases PLAN has received referrals for support to cases from zones that PLAN has no presence. PLAN is implementing activities in 4 zones of Ofua 6, Ariaze, Ocea and Ariiwa; while other CP partners take on other settlement zones. The coordinating agency UNHCR indicated that there's still struggle to harmonize strategies on how community structures are dealt with in order not to cripple the subsequent partners and as well work towards sustainability. Different partners run different sub structures in order to effectively achieve planned targets. The November 2020 Rhino settlement statistics indicate that 26% of the population in Rhino refugee settlement are young people between the age of 15 and 24 and 60% are children some of whom are school dropouts, child mothers or living alone thus being exposed to a different level of protection risks in the community such as drug abuse, child labour and children in conflict /contact with the law. In addition, according to the PLAN proposal, there are 61% children falling under the category of unaccompanied, separated or children at risk. In this regard, PLANJ is providing case management services in 4 zones of Rhino settlement and engaging young people and youth in life skills and livelihood clubs to reduce stress and build resilience among them for self-protection

Monitoring and evaluation process.

A 3 day M&E exercise was conducted to PLAN from the 3rd to 5th Dec, 2020 and on day one of the visit, JPF held an inception meeting with PLAN in Arua and later proceeded to the field where focus group discussions had been organised with the center management committee that had completed the CP training and the children and young people accessing the child friendly space in Ofua 6 zone.

On day two the JPF team and Plan held KII with OPM and UNHCR on their role and level of involvement in the implementation of the PLAN project and gathered their thoughts on the general response sector gaps and achievements. The teams proceeded to the field in Ariaze for FGD with community members who had been part of child protection sensitization programmes by Plan, met with youth supporters club members, the RWCs, the livelihood group and the community based volunteers.

On day 3, the teams concentrated on conducting home visits documenting life interest stories for 4 case management beneficiaries. The team also conducted spot checks to facilities that had been supported with non-food items to support children and young people with protection needs.



Project Implementation status

Plan activities implementation were faced with delays till the start of June 2020 majorly due to Covid 19 restrictions and also, although secondary, during October 2020, the delayed finalization of memorandum of understanding with OPM caused some delay in carrying some of the planned activities.

The children and young people indicated activities they engage in at the CFS included gardening, drama, debating, riddles, traditional dance, poems, drawings and storytelling, bottle filling, sack racing, tug of war (rope pulling), comedies at CFS. These children are organised under a peace club made up of 25 members and youth supporters per CFS.

The animators talk to adolescent girls and boys once a week. These fall between ages 10 to 18 years. The boys are called here as youth supporters agricultural groups. The boys' talks cover topics like drug abuse on how to prevent it and avoiding bad peer groups. The boys reported that there are youth abusing mairungi, Alcohol and smoking in ofua 6. The girls meetings cover topics on menstrual hygiene and how to manage them.

There was reduced activity at the CFS due to Covid19 and the children who used to come to the center 3 times a week said that now they come in once in a while when called upon by the animators. Otherwise, many other activities were moved to the community and animators engage 15 children from different households for an hour and this is done for 6 groups per week.

Youth supporters groups were initiated at CFS and charged with CFS and community roles that include; targeting and advising fellow youth in clusters to desist from idleness, bad peer groups and acts, assist animators with children during play and other activities and as well refer child abuse cases to help desk volunteers for mediation with community members. Admission in the youth supporters and peace building club was as a result of Animators creating awareness about the club opportunities at the Child Friendly Space and the children and young people that frequented the center joined because they got the information easily. There are 40 youth supporters in every group at 2 child friendly spaces.

Since June, the Youth Supporters groups reported that they had been engaged by the animators every Friday in debates and lessons on hygiene and sanitation, prevention of STIs and desisting from early sex; information which the youth supporters and peace club members said they pass on to fellow youth.

Making Beads bags and bungles door mats and liquid soap has kept the peace club members (aged between 18 to 24 years) busy even during the lockdown period. Many of these youth are school dropouts and child mothers that were targeted. They sold off some of the products through food distribution points and markets and through door to door marketing. Their bags and door mats go for as much as 3\$ - 4\$, however, they still struggle with finding raw products for their goods within the community. At least 20 youths per CFS were reached.



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During an FGD, the community members confirmed that they had seen animators in the community engaging children in play and recreation in groups of 15 for one hour per group. Six groups were being reached per day per animator in order to keep child participation going, despite the Covid19 restrictions. There are 4 help desk volunteers and 20 animators under this project. Up to now however, there are no ECD activities in Ofua 6 CFS.

It was confirmed through a FGD with community members that they had been part of PLAN initiated community dialogues, however, since June and with the Covid-19 restrictions, community dialogues were limited and only 2 out of 18 community members in the FGD confirmed attendance during this period. Topics touched included; how to take care of children from conception to birth, quick response to illnesses and ensuring medical attention for children, child labour, hygiene and sanitation and how to prevent diseases, conflict resolution, prevention of covid-19 which has reached stage four and asymptomatic.

PLAN indicated that they were having feedback meetings with community based structures i.e. CPCs, CMCs and RWCs in one gathering. In these meetings, pertinent issues were raised and local solutions derived.

Home visits were conducted to at least 8 vulnerable children per week by the help desk volunteers assisted by the CPCs and community focal persons. They also provided PSS support and non-food items.

Project Implementation Challenges

- The children and young people complained about the lack of time for participation because there are many activities at home relating to gardening. For example most children spend their time harvesting simsim.
- During the lockdown most activities didn't take place, so children were always home and hard to find and this delayed implementation.
- Distance: due to limited services from other partners some children and young people come all the way from simbili to join the youth group – No such groups in simbili and this affects participation of very many young people from zones where partners have not put the same services.
- Girls: if you say you want to go to the CFS, the parents think that you are going for something else and they will stop you.
- Inadequate facilities for girls. These include netball rings at the child friendly space for inclusive participation
- Poverty – parents said that children are walking naked because they can't afford clothes for them. It was raised by the parents that children who have completed Primary 7 tend to be kept home because parents don't have fees for secondary. This leaves a number of redundant adolescents in the community.



- Inadequacy in other sectors: That the nearby health facilities request beneficiaries to purchase their own drugs or they are given Panadol just. Parents also showed concern over parents admitted in hospital and their children are not allowed to receive food ratio. This has contributed to reluctance by the community to take early treatment and prevent diseases like malaria that if treated earlier would cause crippling effects and or loss of lives.
- Lack of MoU that was needed for renewal by Madi Okollo, Arua, Terego districts as well as OPM that got PLAN suspended from the operation for the month of October.
- Negligence from the parents who sell food and find it hard to take children even for routine immunization. These affect results realization when parents don't play their role.

Process and standards

The ultimate achievable standard in case management that UNHCR hopes for, according to the child protection sector priorities other things being constant, is 1:75; however, currently, the caseworker caseload ratio in Rhino settlement stands at 1:600 while in Omugo it is 1:200. It was noted however that UNHCR and partners will by mid next year prioritize closure of cases through a door to door exercise.

It was noted that to create effectiveness in results realization, Plan International Japan had established a side structure within the community during the Covid -19 restriction period that is paid and working closely with CPC in both the settlement and the host communities.

There are protection case management meetings held monthly among the main CP partners i.e. Save the children, PLAN, DRC with technical persons from OPM and UNHCR. Urgent cases are however handled on a prima facie basis. However, due to the Corona pandemic, these meetings did not happen since March 2020.

According to the OPM focal point, PLAN was part of the CPC review meetings held at community to get feedback from the child protection committees and provide the necessary support.

All PLAN staff and community based volunteers and focal points attached to PLAN have signed the child safeguarding policy and have all the necessary documents to implement the policy such as consent forms. The PLAN safeguarding policy now protects children and youth up to 24years

OPM is in charge of allocating zones to partners in consultation with UNHCR and sector lead partners.

OPM and UNHCR play a coordination, monitoring and funds mobilization role for partners and starting 2021 according to OPM, technology will assume the place of physical meetings through zoom since OPM acquired a license.

OPM has fully activated the Uganda refugee response monitoring system -a government monitoring tool to which the partners upload work plans, location, funding amount, duration and



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activities. This will start next year 2021 and every partner will be required to fill it in and provide quarterly updates; failure to do so for two quarters, the partner will be disengaged and locked out.

OPM and UNHCR shared a reporting template which all partners including PLANJ use to share updates through the sector lead partners. It was noted from UNHCR, however, that PLAN activity reports did not fit into the protection sector response plan indicators that UNHCR updates for the general public and requested PLAN to access the indicators and start reporting in line with the sector goals.

Plan international is part of the child protection coordination meetings that happen monthly which falls under the big sector of protection that also happens monthly and is co-chaired with OPM and UNHCR and the district.

Child protection issues if not managed at household level, are reported to the block leaders in some cases who double as CPCs and issues are resolved through counselling or even referred for further management. It was however raised that sometimes the CPCs are dormant, some take rumours and when it comes to investigation there's nothing. That they seem not to be well equipped to do their work and need training.

Partners have forums with CPCs where cross cutting issues are discussed and to help clarify on programming in the different zones. This also helps clear the air of blame games especially when it comes to feedback on referrals which remains a big challenge.

Project evaluation framework

The evaluation exercise utilized the OECD framework of Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact and Sustainability. The matrix below summarises the findings under each of the framework elements.

Evaluation Criteria	M&E team Observations and suggestions for project improvement
Relevance	<p>The livelihood program being implemented by PLAN J in Rhino settlement is in line with the strategic objective 3 in the refugee response plan 2019-2020 which looks at response partners shifting from care and maintenance to inclusion and self-reliance through development of individual capacities and promotion of a conducive environment for livelihood opportunities.</p> <p>Case management: The RRP 2019/2020 under the child protection sectoral plan also calls upon partners to continue to strengthen case management systems through emphasis on case prioritization and workforce skills development. Plan Japan implementation of case management is guided by the child protection</p>

	<p>minimum standards-a global tool from the alliance for child protection in humanitarian action.</p> <p>Furthermore, the RRP’s goal is also aimed at supporting and strengthening government institutional capacity to respond to emergencies. PLANJ is contributing to this effort through a Systems strengthening approach of engaging children, youth, parents and center management committees to ensure there is community led protection.</p> <p>The refugee and the host communities</p> <p>Discussions with the youth confirmed that they are engaged in livelihood skills of baking, African craft for shoes and beaded accessories, making door mats and bags which are sold to community members in order to improve the different facets of their wellbeing.</p>
<p>Effectiveness</p>	<p>Mainly targeted for the livelihood club were child mothers and school dropouts most of whom have returned to school as a result of this programming and others have been able to financially support their families and as well maintain a healthy emotional status. However, the club members still requested to have role models to talk to them about career development and other development fields.</p> <p>Due to restricted movement of Plan staff during covid-19 lockdown, Plan Japan hired the services of 4 community based volunteers who provide timely reports about any child protection violations in the community. Contrary to the CPCs, these are paid 10,000 Ugx (2.7 -3\$) a day and perform CPC closely related roles which demotivate the CPCs who provide free CP service in the community, moreover, these are partner specific and contradict the efforts to strengthen the system agreed upon by the normative framework.</p>
<p>Efficiency</p>	<p>Due to Covid-19 disruption and the need for Plan International to renew its operation mandate for the districts of Terego and Madi Okolo, and the Office of the Prime Minister Refugee Operations, the implementation was delayed from March 2020 to June 1, 2020 and October respectively. These prompted a request for the non-cost extension to February 28, 2021.</p> <p>Case management and CPC review meetings that PLAN International Japan participates in have strengthened accountability of partners including PLAN International Japan to provide services to children and families of concern in a timely and efficient manner.</p>

	<p>At least 46% of budget was spent to achieve 65.8% results by 5th October, 2020, this is attributed to the fact that most of the activities are continuous such as CFS activities and trainings for Volunteers and CMCs were done at the early stages of the project while others such as case management were building on previous JPF project results, making it easy to achieve subsequent results despite the Corona pandemic interferences.</p>
<p>Impacts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The children and young people indicated that they had influenced the community in different ways e.g. through contextually relevant drama, drawings, poems and other activities that discouraged acts of child abuse, violence, neglect and exploitation. ● Children and CMCs indicated that when child protection cases are identified, the first point of contact is the block leader. Block leaders in some blocks fortunately double as CPCs and this has made resolution and referral of child protection issues easy and timely. Though challenge lies in delays of feedback for referred cases. ● The children and young people when asked about the impact created as a result of their participation in the CFS activities, they had this to say; these activities have strengthened or made us discover our talents e.g. drawing, my confidence was boosted because I can now speak in public. I can now act and it's become a talent. It improved my communication skills, it has helped me develop positive attitude and improved the quality of my relationship with other; being part of youth supporters club has made me be creative; I made friends, it helped me relieve my stress that accumulates when I am home, education skills were acquired e.g. dancing and drawing, I feel happy when I play with friends. I gained knowledge and skills. ● Behavioral change: Parents reported that they had observed peaceful living and relating among adolescents resulting from the CFS engagements including life skills that they receive from animators. ● The peace club members who attested to having been involved in making beads pouches and gardening such as planting g.nuts indicated that they had an alternative source of food and that income at household level had increased. The children also said that they learnt how to work hard in future. ● The PSS activities that took place at community level by PLAN during the Covid19 lockdown, were said to have helped parents from the burden of having to monitor and worry about the children being home all the time. ● Some protection concerns have been reduced because of continued awareness creation – more than 20cases per day used to be reported in 2018-2019 and now it's only about 5 cases per day. Other factors could be the positive response to address the raised issues from different sectors e.g. construction of shelters and provision of other NFIs. ● In June July the issue of child pregnancy had gone to 8 per month but after august only two cases have been reported monthly. This is attributed partly to

	<p>the awareness creation on importance of education, self-esteem and avoiding bad peer groups and early sex.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where there the capacity of parents has been built, there's enhanced protection for children thus improved and there is improved relationships at household level child wellbeing; however, there's need to further strengthen the role of parents to take charge in the protection of their children through positive parenting sessions. • Case workers indicated that they had gained experience to handle cases and their supervisors agreed saying that it was visible in the techniques they use to engage children. • Children are now able to report to their leaders about child rights violations as a result of PLAN and other CP partners programming in the zones they implement.
<p>Sustainability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The young people and children when asked about sustainability of their participation, they confirmed that they are able to cope with the skills learned. That they had action plans and if activities are to be conducted, 16 or 17 persons out of 20 will attend the club activity. • Plan has worked with youth supporters and strengthened their capacities to support caregivers at the child friendly space free of charge as they also get involved in other life skills & livelihood skills acquisition projects within the centers. • CMCs are also engaged in taking care of child friendly spaces. Most of the activities that PLAN used to execute through animators are now being taken care of by parents and CMCs. They are in charge of cleaning centers and mobilizing children to come to the center and as well carry administrative roles.
<p>Core Humanitarian Standards</p>	<p>Humanitarian intervention is guided by four core principles, which are humanity, impartiality, independence and neutrality. These principles are operationalized by nine (9) standards on quality and accountability. This was used in assessing the intervention in this dimension of the criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Response being appropriate and relevant: The target groups for life and livelihood skills are children and youth who were selected using a vulnerability criteria in order to build resilience and coherence among these individuals. 2. Response effective and timely: PLAN participates in case management and CPC review meetings that engage other partners and there's a lot of sharing and feedback to persons of concern and is an active member in the referral pathway. PLAN also puts into practice the interagency and

	<p>internal case management SoPs to provide service to vulnerable children - however, during home visits the team noticed that some beneficiaries did not meet the criteria of vulnerability for example the case of a woman whose husband abandoned her with a young healthy baby falls out of the prioritization category for children at risk.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Response strengthens local capacities and avoid negative effects: PLAN conducted community dialogues and child protection training for Center management committees and community based volunteers to strengthen response to child protection issues by community. However, there's a need to deliberately include block leaders in the child protection capacity building sessions because the community has built trust in them more than any other structure. Also PLAN needs to strengthen their engagement with CPCs and avoid parallel structures within the zones. 4. Response based on communication, participation and feedback: PLAN works with translators in all their community engagements or even hire local community based personnel who speak the language and can communicate appropriately to beneficiaries. Through feedback sessions with community and CPCs, PLAN is able to communicate on services provided and get community perspectives about programming. 5. Complaints are welcomed and addressed: PLAN has active community based help desk volunteers whom the community approaches for any child protection (CP) issue and provides immediate support or feedback. For example the case of a girl who got pregnant and the mother reported to the block leader and PLAN was in time to attend and support the family 6. Responses are coordinated and complementary: According to UNHCR there's still a need to harmonise how partners deal with community based structures to deliver results while ensuring sustainability. Plan Int. Japan was able to make referrals of cases to other protection partners for holistic services. However, PLANJ needs to align their reporting indicators to those of the coordinating bodies so that their contribution to the bigger picture is captured. PLAN also participates in interagency and CP and SGBV sector level meetings organised at district and settlement levels. 7. Actors continuously learn and improve: PLANJ JPF4 project builds on the lessons from JPF 3 in order to sustain results though funds still remain limited for some components to commence at the child friendly spaces. PLAN should also conduct quarterly beneficiary satisfaction surveys to measure the achievement of the set targets. 8. Staff are supported to do their job effectively and are treated fairly and equitably: PLAN has 2 CP project officers (one for each component), 5 case workers, 2 social workers and 1 data clerk, 1 finance assistant and 1 admin assistant, 1 driver and 1 welfare assistant. The CP Project officers oversee the community engagement activities with
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	<p>support of 2 social workers. These manage processes and implementation of the project. Staff are well aware of their contribution to the achievement of the organization goal and complement each other's roles. The M&E team was taken through the child safeguarding policy and advised to consider paying a courtesy call to their country office next time if time allows for country level debriefing. Given the geographical scope of the project vis-a-vis plan office location in Arua city, constrained effective implementation of activities due to transport logistics challenges; through observation the project only had one hired car which was being used to drop staff in different zones of their work which leads to fatigue to one driver and inefficiency. However, another car was hired to support the monitoring visit.</p> <p>9. Resources are managed and used responsibly for their intended purpose: PLAN has a requisition for funds and materials in process and a follow-up mechanism to ensure beneficiaries got served.</p>
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Recommendations

The following recommendations are proposed to guide the remaining period (extended period) of implementation and any other similar or planned intervention in Rhino refugee settlement.

- It is important that PLAN makes reference to the existing systems strengthening guidelines by the ministry of Gender labour and social development (MoGLSD) in partnership with UNICEF so as to guide their community work with structures. More so, as the MoGLSD terms youth as persons aged between 18 to 30, it is suggested that PLAN expand the livelihood activities to those age groups. However, further caution on activities for persons under the age of 18 should be taken, as to not divert them from mainstream education.
- Plan should also endeavor to harmonize their reporting indicators with the indicators within the refugee response framework that every partner contributes to. Otherwise PLAN contribution to the wellbeing of children may not feature in the UNHCR updates. This is something that UNHCR has also observed and advises that PLAN looks at the sector priorities for each year and programs in line with that for relevance.
- There's an online system that allows for Plan/partners to share their activities and duration with the rest of the people that have access to the platform and PLAN is advised to make use of this system for transparency and make coordination easy. This could attract synergies from other partners having similar activities and lead to project efficiency. UNHCR also raised the need for PLAN to have detailed activity discussion for technical guidance and ensure relevance of contribution to the bigger picture.
- It has been noted that several times the block leaders are very trusted by the community members and tend to be the first stop point for child protection issues. It would thus be imperative that PLAN and other CP partners make deliberate plans to engage this figure in CP training; much as some double as CPCs and RWCs, they are also the nearest to the community members.



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- Continue with community sensitization and engagement of parents on their roles so as to strengthen community based child protection.
- There will be a need for PLAN to conduct a quick survey for the project indicators to ascertain the immediate impact of the project and measure the extent to which the set targets have been achieved thus far.
- Acquisition of more funding to support early development learning for children and continuously seeking community capacities to support the running of ECD sessions at the child friendly space in Ofua 6 will build a stronger protective environment for the children.
- One of the proposal selection criteria by JPF could be to ensure that the partners have put into consideration quarterly or midterm and end term beneficiary satisfaction assessments that also feed into the general JPF results framework.

Conclusion

PLAN has efficiently implemented the case management and systems strengthening project in Rhino and this is evidenced in the results accumulated and funds utilized by 5th Oct, 2020. However, PLAN needs to align its implementation indicators to the response framework sector objectives in order to guide reporting and contribute meaningfully to the achievement of the bigger picture for the national development plan and refugee response plan. This should be coupled with consistent reporting as required by the coordinating partners.



8. PWJ_SSD Refugee Response (Omugo & Bidibidi) Project Evaluation Report

Project summary

program name	South Sudan Refugee Emergency Assistance (Emergency response period)				
Project	Housing support for South Sudanese refugees in northern Uganda and hygiene support in public facilities Provision of Shelter Assistance for South Sudanese Refugees and Improvement of Sanitation & Hygiene in Public Facilities in Northern Uganda				
Start date	March 30, 2020	End date	October 29, 2020	Days	214
Organization name	PWJ SSD		Contact name	Miho Fukui	

Introduction

Japan Platform undertook a project evaluation visit to Peace Winds Japan (South Sudan Refugee Response), a JPF member partner implementing Shelter Assistance for South Sudanese Refugees and Improvement of Sanitation & Hygiene in Public Facilities in Northern Uganda Project. The visit focused on verifying whether the humanitarian principles and standards were being adhered to; understanding beneficiary satisfaction; analyzing the impact of the project with the available data; providing technical advice and feedback to the project improvement; and identifying additional technical assistance and other resources that may be needed. The evaluation team consisted of two members, namely; Arinaitwe Fatuma (Protection, Education & M&E) and Kica Richard Ocaya (M&E, WASH, Protection, health & education).

Background and Problem Statement

PWJ-JPF project was being implemented in two settlements of Omugo (Rhino camp Extension) and Bidibidi settlement. According to the office of the prime minister for Omugo (Rhino Camp Settlement) the population being served are 40,000. In Omugo settlement where shelter support was implemented, assessment established that there are 4000 PSNs in need of shelter support and the project support of 24 units are only a handful. Bidibidi settlement started in 2016 August and barely 4 years it had 32000 refugees but after reuniting people, numbers rose to 280000 plus. In



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2018, a verification was conducted and numbers fell to 231000 persons due to reasons like birth, death and refugee movement between settlements in the region Bidibidi settlement is seated on a 250sqkm land of 5 sub counties in Yumbe district. Initially persons of concern relied on water tracking which was phased out in 2018 and now the settlement has 130 hand pumps and 38 water systems (i.e. hybrid and solar powered). Water per capita in bidibidi settlement is estimated at 17lppd but fluctuates due to failure in the system. Hygiene promotion and latrine coverage both stand at 60% in bidibidi according to OPM. Zone II is still lagging in water supply and water per capita stands at 12lppd and leaves a need for more systems and or high yielding wells. Latrine coverage is also affected by the soft soil texture in zones of 3 and 5 as latrines keep collapsing and the settlement is struggling with fecal sludge management as there's no system in place. The one that was put in place by IOM doesn't meet the standards and so is not being used and thus all drainable latrines can't be drained yet. Water supply in health facilities and schools is still very low despite the WASH partners' efforts. Donor funds were said to have gone low and OPM indicated that UNHCR funding had gone down by 17% in 2021 and that food ratio had gone from 70% to 40% and could still be cut further in the coming 2021 and thus a need to empower people in livelihoods. Under the northern umbrella, the ministry of water and environment started imposing the water user fee and in Bidibidi one system has been taken over and made connections to households. There are less than 10 partners in WASH namely; Alight, PWJ, CRS, Water Mission Uganda, Malteser, Plan, URCS, Caritas, WHH, NRC and District-GIZ. In Bidibidi, PWJ support went to Kena Valley Primary School in particular, the school serves a population of 2078 pupils of which 984 are girls. The school head indicated that 4 girls had dropped off due to pregnancy. Video halls keep mushrooming in the settlement and in some cultures, when someone dies, people spend the night at the burial place and that's when some young people take advantage to mess up.

The above situational background provided the justification and foundation for directing the project to be implemented in the location. Worth noting is the fact that with reduced funding for refugee response over the years for the settlements, PWJ happened to be the only partner currently in the shelter and construction sector.

According to UNHCR, as the case with shelter support, there is an overwhelming need for menstrual hygiene management infrastructure in the Bidibidi settlement. Currently there are 122 primary schools and less than 5% of schools are covered with changing rooms with installed incinerators and the few facilities are installed with MAK 3 incinerator.

Evaluation process (November 30 - December 2, 2020)

The project evaluation team carried out a 3 day field visit to PWJ based in Yumbe district, West Nile region, Uganda and on day one of the visit the team had an inception meeting with PWJ at Omugo Zone (Rhino Camp Settlement) in which PWJ provided project updates and this was followed by KIIs with the camp commandant under the office of the prime minister and protection focal person of UNHCR. The day was concluded by home visit to some of the beneficiaries in Omugo Zone who received shelter assistance.



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On day two of the visit, the team had a field visit to Kena Valley Primary School in Bidibidi Settlement in Yumbe district where the project provided the school with a changing room for adolescent girls, incinerator and trained school stakeholders. A KII was conducted with the head teacher of the school and this was followed by another KII with the assistant camp commandant for Bidibidi at the office of the prime minister for the settlement and WASH focal person for UNHCR.

On day 3, the team conducted FGDs at Kena Valley Primary School with the school management committee (SMC), teachers and pupils. The teams later had a debriefing session with the PWJ team on the findings and travelled back to Arua.

Project Implementation status

The project had two components:

Component 1: PSN Support for improving the residential and sanitary environment of households. The output target for this intervention component was to construct 24 housing units, which is estimated to host 72 people/household members.

- 24 housing units were constructed for PSNs in Omugo settlement in 2020. Beneficiaries included single mothers with many children, single mothers with health problems, elderly men and women above 50 years.

Component 2: Sanitation support in public facilities. The output target for the component was to construct a changing room and an incinerator, and training school stakeholders at Kena Valley Primary School.

- An incinerator and senior woman teacher's office "changing room" was constructed at Kena Valley primary school.
- Trained girls and boys in making reusable pads i.e. 30 pupils (10boys and 20 girls) plus 2 female teachers and 1 male teacher.
- At least 21 girls in primary 7 were taught how to use the incinerator.
- At least 30 (15f, 15m) health club members were trained in hand washing and given a role to ensure school hygiene which lessons go a long way up to their homes

At the time of the project evaluation visits, all the activities had been completed and outputs achieved. The only pending activity was an assessment to ascertain the status of outcome indicators for the objectives.

Process and standards

The process of allocation of zones where partners can implement its project activities is undertaken by OPM and UNHCR in consultation with the partners in the sector. According to UNHCR, the process involves a multi-functional team conducting assessment and engaging partners with plans and resources to intervene in the given sector. This procedure led to the assignment of PWJ intervention to Omugo Zone for shelter support and Kena Primary School for changing room and



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incinerator support. On the selection of beneficiaries, this was said to be based on the assessment conducted by the sector and the raking of the level of vulnerability for the case of shelter support.

For any new partners coming into the response, clearance is done in Kampala with OPM then with the district refugee office and then the field sector lead supports with gaps analysis that determine location of implementation.

construction of the senior woman teacher’s office/”changing room” at Kena valley PWJ notified Kena Valley head teacher who also informed the Senior woman teacher, senior male teacher, PTA and SMC. Two meetings were held to agree on an ideal construction site and other services PWJ planned to provide to the school such as MHM. The school management is in charge of monitoring what is being implemented in their school for purposes of ownership and meeting standards.

On standards, the evaluation team established two areas of focus; the standard for housing and the standard for incinerator for the case of sanitation in schools. For the shelter support, it emerged that there is no agreed standard for the housing for the PSNs, however, according to UNHCR WASH focal person, discussions are underway to agree on the standard that will have to be adhered to by all the partners in the shelter and infrastructure sector. For the incinerator, there are different standards recommended with MAK 3 being the minimum in all the schools. However, some institutions such as health facilities would need a MAK 4. In Kena Primary School, the install incinerator is a MAK 3 version.

Every Tuesday there is monitoring with the district while Monday is for coordination meetings among partners but this mainly happened this year between April to July 2020. Every zone has a protection focal person who is always brought on the multifunctional team (MFT).

Through the WASH sector meetings the WASH component is updated with all partners’ updates by the sector lead. There are zonal coordination meetings chaired by the sector lead and feed into the sector meetings which feed into the district level interagency meetings chaired by the Refugee desk Officer (RDO) and Chief Administrative officer (CAO).

PWJ provides site handover documents which stipulate the role and responsibilities of the school for management purposes.

Project evaluation framework

The evaluation exercise utilized the OECD framework of Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact and Sustainability. The matrix below summarises the findings under each of the framework elements.

Evaluation Criteria	The Evaluation team Observations and suggestions for project improvement
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<p>Relevance</p>	<p>Component 1: PSN support for improving the residential and sanitary environment of households (Omugo Zone in Rhino Camp Settlement - Arua District)</p> <p>This particular intervention falls under two sectors in the refugee settlement: shelter and infrastructure, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). Assessment by the office of the prime minister (OPM), UNHCR and other partners in the sector indicates that this year 2020 alone, the shelter need/gap for persons with special needs (PSN) stands at 4000 and interventions by partners only covered a minimal proportion, of which PWJ was able to construct 24 housing units.</p> <p>Component 2: Sanitation support in public facilities (Bidibidi Settlement - Yumbe district)</p> <p>The key intervention under this component was the construction of a changing room/senior woman teacher office and incinerator in Kena Valley Primary school with a current pupil enrollment of 2078 of which 984 are girls.</p> <p>Therefore, it can be deduced that for both components, the intervention responded to the pressing need for shelter and changing rooms for adolescent girls in the settlements respectively, by improving housing and providing the changing shelter for the girl child which could reduce school dropout associated with lack of menstrual facilities.</p>
<p>Effectiveness</p>	<p>Component 1 Objective:</p> <p>Contribute to the improvement of the residential and sanitation environment of approximately 1,100 refugees and host communities through the construction of shelters for households in need of special assistance in refugee and host communities in refugee-residential areas (Bidibidi/ Invepi/ Rhino Camp) in northern Uganda where humanitarian needs have not yet been fulfilled.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The output target for this intervention component which was to construct 24 housing units, which is estimated to host 72 people/household members, was achieved however there were some unintended effects such as family separation. It was noted that a beneficiary has asked his 11 year old grandson to go leave with friends because the old man did not feel comfortable sharing a one roomed house with a young boy. ● Provision of sato pans to the most elderly persons in the community improved the general household sanitation and hygiene. <p>Component 2 Objective:</p>

Contribute to the development of sanitation facilities and health dissemination activities for public facilities, in refugee and host communities in refugee-residential areas (Bidibidi/ Imvepi/ Rhino Camp) in northern Uganda where humanitarian needs have not yet been fulfilled.

- Similar to component 1 objective, the output target for this objective was achieved, however, with the limited water supply to the room, the hygiene in the school might be compromised because the room needs constant water flow. The visit established that water is pumped once a day and sometimes 3 days could pass without water at the school and when the pressure is low, it doesn't reach the room.
- Establishment and training of the health club members (15boys and 15girls) in school improved the hygiene environment of the school because these pupils have a work plan in cleaning up the different sections of the school.

However, for both component objectives, the project is still to conduct an assessment to establish the status of the following outcome indicators:

Component 1

1. Number of PSN households who immigrated to semi-permanent shelters: 24 households
2. Percentage of households that received shelters who answered that the housing environment had improved: 80%
3. Percentage of households that received a chair-type toilet said that the toilet became easier to use:80%

Component 2

1. Number of changing rooms built in the school:1 (Output indicator)
2. Number of incinerators installed in the school:1 (Output indicator)
3. Percentage of students and teachers who have experienced positive changes in toilet use:60%
4. Percentage of female students who answered "I used the changing room":60%
5. Number of activities and participants of the School Hygiene Club (Menstrual Hygiene Management Club)
6. Percentage of students who can answer about the appropriate timing of hand washing:80%
 - 2019 Target Percentage:70%
 - 2020 Target Percentage:78%

	<p>Percentage of female students who felt that the burden at the time of going to school at the time of menstruation was lightened in the survey after the hygiene spread activity: 60%</p>
<p>Efficiency</p>	<p>Although there were challenges with the lockdown associated with Covid-19 pandemic during the implementation period, PWJ was able to implement the project activities in time and within the allocated budget, this demonstrated a high level of efficacy given the output achieved.</p> <p>Worth noting though is the fact that much as the shelters constructed are semi-permanent, there were some observable quality concerns, especially with the wall, which were made of mud bricks with poor resistance to weather. This concern was raised by the evaluation team to UNHCR who told the team that currently there is no uniform standard for the shelters agreed by partners and it is something being discussed and certainly a standard will be reached and agreed for all the shelter assistance in the settlement in any subsequent interventions.</p>
<p>Impacts</p>	<p>The following noticeable direct impacts were observed from the shelter project component:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The intervention, particularly the shelter support improved the quality of life of the beneficiaries as the supported families are now able to shelter in a better accommodation that prior to the intervention. ● The benefiting households also acknowledged that their security and that of their properties have improved as the shelter provided are more secure than the previous. ● Since the shelter comes with latrines, there is a consensus that open defecation (ODF) has reduced. Majority of the beneficiaries acknowledge that prior to the intervention, they used to use open bushes in the settlement for defecation. <p>Indirect benefits of the shelter construction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The construction of the shelters provided short-term engagement/employment to young people in the shelter as the intervention favors employing young refugees and host community members instead of an external contractor. ● The activities also provided a market for local construction material such as bricks and poles. <p>Unintended negative impact</p>

	<p>From a household visit the evaluation visit established that the one roomed occupants preferred to ask their younger ones to go sleep at friends and neighbors places away from the provided shelter for privacy purposes</p> <p>Impact of changing rooms and incinerator at Kena Valley Primary school.</p> <p>Although the true extent of the impact is to be revealed by the an upcoming assessment the PWJ is scheduled to conduct, the school administration observed that there is been increasing use of the facilities by adolescent girls which is expected to improve retention and reduce drop outs associated with poor access to menstrual hygiene facilities in school.</p> <p>Through an FGD with girls indicated that girls no longer skip lessons as a result of returning home to find pads when periods come in the middle of lessons.</p> <p>PWJ changed the mindsets of girls about menstrual hygiene. They can now openly discuss these issues with the senior woman teacher who is always available to help than it used to be before when her office space was in the staffroom. Girls got to learn that it's normal to have periods.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste management was made easy with the provision of an incinerator. Initially girls were dumping used pads in the toilets and this made mechanical desludging of latrines very difficult because pads would block in the cesspool pipes and would need to be removed manually.
<p>Sustainability</p>	<p>As a sustainability strategy for the shelter intervention, OPM and UNHCR is planning to continue with resource mobilization to support the PSN who have not yet received the support until a point when the PSNs are capable to cope on their own or with minimal support.</p> <p>PWJ needs to carry out community and direct beneficiary sensitization on structure maintenance for durability purposes.</p> <p>For the menstrual hygiene facilities, the school teachers, pupils, SMC and PTA have been sensitized and trained on operation and maintenance of the changing room and the incinerator. This expected to cover for the period when the project support ended.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Girls have been trained in how to make reusable pads, which skill will help them not to lack what to use when periods come even when they are at home.
<p>Core Humanitarian Standards</p>	<p>Humanitarian intervention is guided by four core principles, which are humanity, impartiality, independence and neutrality. These principles are operationalized</p>

by nine (9) standards on quality and accountability. This was used in assessing the intervention in this dimension of the criteria:

1. **Response being appropriate and relevant:** PWJ response is directed to the needs of the people as per the sector needs assessment reports as well as gaps shared in the coordination meetings. The Gaps in shelter construction and MHM remain huge in the settlements according to OPM
2. **Response effective and timely:** Despite the huge gaps in the Shelter and WASH sectors in Omugo and Bidibidi, PWJ was able to zero down to 24 needy households for shelter support and made a huge difference in their lives. The multiplier effect of shelter could be seen in the ability of household heads to carry out other economic activities without any worries of their children being rained on or hit by the house in sorry state.
3. **Response strengthens local capacities and avoid negative effects:** PWJ to work on reducing the risk of dependency by engaging the beneficiaries more on their responsibilities when it comes to maintaining the shelters. In Kena Valley, PWJ has trained pupils on how to manage the facilities provided. The senior woman's teacher gives more dignity to girls.
4. **Response based on communication, participation and feedback:** PWJ provides a site handover document to the parties involved that stipulates their roles and responsibilities and as well warns against any child abuse. The selection of children in the health club is gender and disability sensitive.
5. **Complaints are welcomed and addressed:** PWJ consulted with the head teacher and PTA/SMC of Kena valley on a suitable site for the project and this was agreed upon through a series of meetings.
6. **Responses are coordinated and complementary:** According to UNHCR, PWJ involved partners at design and implementation levels and as well as at commissioning level.
7. **Actors continuously learn and improve:** the earlier designs of the changing rooms and location were not suitable for the girl child dignity and had no water attached. The new design at Kena valley is located in a suitable location that is not discriminative and has water to the room.
8. **Staff are supported to do their job effectively and are treated fairly and equitably:** PWJ had 2 engineers and an expatriate who provides technical support to the team
9. **Resources are managed and used responsibly for their intended purpose: unless the sector is clear about the shelter designs, the evaluation team** could not determine whether there was any resource wastage; however, it was noted that shelter construction and the number of rooms provided depended on the size of the household which was a more effective and efficient way to use funds



Recommendations

The following recommendations are proposed to guide the remaining period (extended period) of implementation and any other similar or planned intervention in Omugo and Bidibidi refugee settlements.

1. For any future relevant programme, PWJ needs to participate regularly in the WASH sector coordination meetings as this kind of intervention cuts across shelter and infrastructure, and WASH. The evaluation visit established the imbalance in the participation of the partner in the two sectors with most of the time spent in the Shelter construction sector.
2. For effective utilization of the changing room, there's a need to work with other partners to provide a water harvesting system to Kena Valley primary school to ensure constant water supply for the girls using the changing rooms.
3. For durability of shelter structures provided to the Persons with Specific Needs. To curb dependency and high expectations from shelter construction beneficiaries PWJ needs to encourage beneficiaries to contribute to the life of the structure through occasional maintenances and not expect PWJ to do the simple repairs. This also comes with initial follow up on proper utilization of the provided shelter as some rooms were found keeping chicken.
4. There's a need to assess the long term impact created by the establishment of a senior woman's teacher's office in terms of girl child school retention in comparison to other schools without such services.
5. Share the project evaluation report findings with UNHCR and other likeminded partners for a common cause and follow up on actions.
6. Strengthen the referral pathway by referring cases of protection to other partners for holistic service provision.

For JPF

7. UNHCR noted that there was less done by JPF in terms of monitoring at implementation stages and recommended that JPF carries out frequent monitoring for partner projects so as to appreciate the end line. That there's a need for flexibility to targeted or earmarked funding in order to meet the objectives of the project. Partners are also encouraged to be multi responsive and be active in referral of protection cases for support.

Conclusion

PWJ successfully implemented planned activities within the project time frame despite the Covid 19 restrictions. A number of persons of concern remain in need of similar services amidst the high rate of partners pullout of the intervention the provided service seemed like a drop in ocean -for both MHM and shelter construction. With the limited resources therefore, strengthening the referral pathway and building the capacity of beneficiaries to manage the available resources would be a sustainable way to improve the wellbeing of the persons of concern.

Appendix



Uganda - Refugee Statistics January 2021 - Kyaka li

Total Population
123,928

Total Households
40,901



Women and Children

77%

95,909



Elderly

3%

3,304

Total Refugees
123,463

Total Asylum-Seekers
465



Female

50%

62,022



Youth 15-24

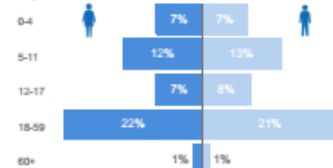
22%

27,032

Zones

Level5	Hhs	Individuals
Sesese	7,845	24,554
Byabakora	6,775	20,871
Mukondo	5,447	17,466
Itambabiriga	5,286	15,915
Bairizi	5,564	15,549
Kakoni	3,232	8,839
Bulisi	2,854	8,193
Kaborogota	2,372	7,086
Bukere	1,239	4,990
	281	400
Makindye Division	16	38
Rubaga Division	3	11
Rubondo	2	6
Kyempango	2	3
Nakasa	1	3
Saababiro-Makindye	1	3
Kampala Central	1	1

Age & Gender Breakdown



Country of Origin

Country of Origin	Total
Democratic Republic of the Congo	117,962
Burundi	3,530
Rwanda	2,947
South Sudan	27
Kenya	15
Ethiopia	11
Sudan	11

New Registration by Month



Occupation

Top 5 26.4% Have occupation

Farmers (crop and vegetable)	10147
Farm-hands & labourers	1228
Housekeepers (including house...	524
Business professionals	439
Farming and forestry advisers	347

* Age is between 18 - 59 years for Occupation

Specific Needs - Top 7



Source: Statistics - OPM (ProGres version 4)

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