

1.0 PROJECT OVERVIEW

1.1 Project Statement

In this project, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and partner organization Community Technology Empowerment Network Uganda (CTEN-Uganda) seek to increase the level of knowledge and useful information available to refugee people in three refugee settlements in northern Uganda, focusing this knowledge on the following subject areas: peacebuilding and psychosocial services; safety and protection; education and vocational skill building; and environmental awareness and care. CTEN-Uganda and UNHCR's sensitization campaigns will concentrate on marginalized groups, such as low-income refugee women, children, families, and youth in refugee areas. Sensitization activities will be conducted through a variety of approaches and content will be jointly determined by consultation between CTEN-Uganda and UNHCR.

1.2 Operational Context

This project is to be operationalized within three refugee camps in northern Uganda: Rhino Camp, Imvepi, and Bidibidi. The context of this project is northern Uganda's proximity to an enormous refugee crisis generated by warfare, instability, and food insecurity in South Sudan. Uganda—particularly northern Uganda—is a primary location hosting refugees seeking safety while fleeing South Sudan. This situation produces a crisis not only in planning for refugees' future well-being but also in assuring the stability, health, and well-being of refugee communities and the continued economic and environmental stability and safety of the surrounding areas.

Northern Uganda is primarily rural with little connection to technology and communication infrastructure. In the current refugee crisis, this makes provision of accurate information and coordination of information and care for refugees in critical service areas especially difficult, while crucially important. Moreover, the majority of refugees being served have experienced violence and trauma. Reestablishment of community stability and provision of all services must take place using a trauma-aware approach.

CTEN-Uganda has developed strong relationships with humanitarian aid partners delivering services in Rhino Camp, Uganda. The extension of informational/sensitization services to two other refugee camps will require the development of increased connections with other aid delivery bodies within Imvepi and Bidibidi camps.

1.3 Problems, Objectives, and Intended Impact

CTEN-Uganda and UNHCR's sensitization partnership addresses the following problems among refugees in northern Ugandan refugee camps:

- high levels of trauma and exposure to warfare which can lead to the development of social problems, violence, and further community dissent
- difficulty in disseminating information broadly and consistently to refugees in order to improve their approaches to basic health and safety and reduce vulnerability to threats such as human immunodeficiency virus infection/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS), sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), and other sources of danger
- challenges accessing education in basic skills—such as English, technology use, and financial literacy—that will help refugees (children, youth, and adults) integrate into society and maintain a productive outlook
- lack of widespread and publicized information about how refugees can meet their own needs while still taking care of the wildlife and environment in northern Uganda, leading to the risk of degradation of natural resources in the area

All of the above impact both social cohesion and well-being within the refugee camps and well-being of the surrounding host country and its communities.

The information/sensitization collaboration between CTEN-Uganda and UNHCR pursues the following objectives:

- reach higher numbers of refugees with useful information for psychosocial/trauma awareness and healing, conflict sensitivity, and peacebuilding
- raise awareness among refugees regarding dangers and risks associated with HIV/AIDS, SGBV, and other jointly agreed sources of risk for refugee individuals as well as information about steps to reduce risks
- increase the number of public workshops delivered in each of the three identified refugee camps (Rhino Camp, Imvepi, and Bidibidi) teaching skills in English, technology, and other vocational areas
- increase the number of environmentally focused workshops provided within each of the three identified refugee camps
- provide consistent spaces where refugee individuals can access informational resources on each of the above topics based on their own time and interest, including accessing resources from the internet
- deliver services to a set minimum of high-needs groups—including women, children, and youth; people with disabilities; and people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV)—with the minimum ratio of these groups to total recipients to be determined jointly by CTEN-Uganda and UNHCR

The information/sensitization campaign is expected to produce the following impacts:

- increased knowledge among northern Ugandan refugees regarding each of the following areas:
 - psychosocial well-being and conflict sensitivity
 - HIV/AIDS, SGBV, and other aspects of safety, protection, and risk
 - English, technology skills, and other jointly identified areas of educational need
 - steps to take to prevent environmental degradation
- increased information access among refugees throughout Rhino, Imvepi, and Bidibidi camps
- through conflict sensitivity work, established systems for communities in each camp to meet together regularly and process sources of conflict
- other objectives to be determined within the above areas through the joint will of the two partners

[Note that this proposal has been truncated for accessibility here and below.]

3.0 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS . . .

3.2 Risk Management

The project's effectiveness could be impacted by each of the following factors:

- weather-related damage to CTEN-Uganda's property and/or ability to host events
- conflict factors within the communities
- conflict factors beyond the control of the communities

Each of these, along with proposed mitigation steps, is addressed in a paragraph below.

Weather-Related Damage to CTEN-Uganda's Property and/or Ability to Host Events

CTEN-Uganda activities are currently hosted within a large, temporary tent in Eden II, Rhino Camp. Weather-based disruptions have frequently derailed activities (e.g., trainings and workshops) scheduled to occur in this tent, and the tent has been damaged multiple times, disrupting service provision. CTEN-Uganda has plans for the construction of a community Refugee Information Center (RIC) building, which it advises, but CTEN-Uganda is also open to collaboration with UNHCR and its partners for solutions within each of the three camps to determine an appropriate, consistently accessible, sufficiently sturdy location at which CTEN-Uganda and UNHCR's information sensitization activities can take place.

Conflict Factors Within the Communities

Refugees engaged in these sensitization activities have experienced violent conflict and traumatic loss in South Sudan. Additionally, these refugees may hold different political leanings and conflicting views over approaches to meeting current day-to-day needs.

If unaddressed, these conflict factors could reduce the project's ability to gather and sensitize the community. These risks are—in part—addressed by the interventions themselves, specifically the conflict sensitivity and psychosocial healing sensitization trainings. Two additional approaches are suggested to mitigate these risks:

- An extremely inclusive approach should be taken during project development in Phase I of implementation (community needs assessment and community consultation). The two partnering organizations must jointly identify community subgroups to be represented in this process. Engaging representatives from each subgroup in the project development phase will strengthen buy-in and consideration of the needs of different community groups.
- Procedures should be developed to protect the safety of event participants and staff in the event that violent conflict should break out during a sensitization event. These should include contingency procedures for different types of events, possible escape routes and approaches to first aid, approaches to accounting for and caring for staff members, communication contingency plans, and more. These may combine safety procedures from the two partner organizations and possibly from other partner organizations with which they engage. These should be established during Phase II of this project's implementation.

Conflict Factors Beyond the Control of the Communities

Though geographically separate from the conflict in South Sudan, these refugee camps operate close to conflicts in both South Sudan and Democratic Republic of Congo. Generalized increases in instability regionally could jeopardize the ability of CTEN-Uganda and UNHCR to deliver services as planned. This should be addressed in the following ways:

- development of a mechanism for monitoring levels of safety and stability in the surrounding region and communication between the organizations regarding this
- development of contingency plans for crises within the surrounding region, including but not limited to: contingency procedures for different types of events, possible escape routes and approaches to first aid, approaches to accounting for and caring for staff members, communication contingency plans, evacuation plans for staff with multiple routes, and more

These monitoring and contingency plans will be jointly developed by the two organizations in Phase II, may amalgamate existing plans, and should be reviewed and reiterated regularly. Safety plans relevant to each scheduled sensitization event should be reviewed prior to the implementation of that event.