

In this issue:

Background	1
WASH Intervention	1
The iron filter pilot	1
Livelihood intervention	1
Protection and community services	2
Way stations	2
HIJRA 2015 priorities	2
Partnership Approach	2
HIJRA Contribution	2

Background

Humanitarian Initiative Just Relief Aid (HIJRA) is an international humanitarian organization with the aim to positively impact on the lives of the most vulnerable through humanitarian support program in the Horn, East and Central Africa.

In Uganda, HIJRA initially intervened in the WASH sector in Matanda Transit Center in 2012; and in 2013, HIJRA expanded its intervention to managing Nyakabande and Bubukwanga Transit Centers and as the main UNHCR Implementing Partner for Oruchinga Settlement. In 2014, HIJRA supported the Spontaneous Return of Congolese refugees by provision of WASH services and hot meals in Kinyaara, Muhokya and Ishasha way stations.

In 2014, with UNHCR funding of up to 1 million USD, HIJRA has made intervention in WASH sector, Livelihood, Protection and Community Services in Transit Centers, Ways Stations and Oruchinga settlement in South Western Uganda. Over 80% of HIJRA staffs are field based and 95% are Ugandan nationals. HIJRA is currently in the process of developing a strategic plan post 2015, and the plan builds on the achievements of our work in Somalia, Kenya and Uganda over the past years, whilst addressing the basic needs of the most vulnerable communities.

This e-newsletter, the first of the HIJRA monthly e-newsletters, covers HIJRA 2014 intervention in Uganda including the first two months of 2015.

WASH Intervention

HIJRA considers WASH and Livelihood sector as the niche for the organization. In Oruchinga settlement, and with support from UNHCR, HIJRA's intervention in WASH services focused in schools, communities and health centers. WASH has achieved the following:

- Trained and equipped 18 hand pump mechanics that led to repairing and rehabilitating of over 10 water points
- Established a functional water management committee for water points
- Population in Oruchinga camp has access to at least 19 liters of portable water per day with 99% of the population having access to protected water sources
- 90% of the households have a drop hole latrine with 72% of the household meeting the minimum UNHCR standards

WASH intervention in Bubukwanga and Nyakabande transit centers achieved the following:

- Population have at least 25 liters per person per day of available potable water
- 100% of the household have access to bath shelters and latrine.

The iron filter pilot

From December 2013, HIJRA initiated an innovative pilot to treat water with high iron content in Oruchinga settlement. By early 2014, out of the 21 water points in Oruchinga, 7 water sample tests showed high iron content and these water points were not effectively used by the communities. The pilot achieved the following:

- Reduced iron concentration in water from 16.9 mg/l to Uganda water quality standard of 1.0 mg/l
- Unlike before the pilot, communities were now willing to use filtered water for domestic water use. Before, water with high iron content left brown/yellow stain on clothes, yellowish coloration of food and unpleasant water test
- Up to 350 liters of water per hour is produced by the iron filter plant.

As a result of the innovative research, HIJRA hosted a team of ARC WASH staff from Nakivale settlement for a learning visit to the pilot; and to discuss strategies to replicate the pilot idea to water points in Nakivale. Nakivale faces a similar problem of high iron content in a number of water points. In Oruchinga, HIJRA have since constructed four additional iron filter plants; and are scheduled to construct more this year.

Livelihood intervention

HIJRA took over livelihood intervention in Oruchinga in 2014; tree planting to improve the degraded land in the settlement and improving livelihoods through farming, agriculture and incoming generating activities are some of the core component of the livelihood project. The livelihood intervention achieved the following:

- Planted over 34,000 tree seedlings in 20 acres of land with 85% survival rate
- Trained/equipped agricultural extension workers and provided support to persons of concern (PoC) that led to increased crop yields and over 390 hectares of land cultivated
- 50% of the PoC aged between 18 and 59 own business and are self-employed for a period of more than 12 months

Protection and community services

HIJRA achieved the following under protection and community services intervention in Oruchinga settlement:

- 100% of older persons received services for their specific needs
- 80% of the reported cases (conflict, domestic violence and theft) has been investigate and resolved/prosecuted, and this has led to the reduction in crime and freedom of movements of the persons of concern
- 98% of the PoCs are active in SGBV prevention and survivor centered protection. All SGBV survivor cases reported receiving appropriate support. This has resulted in the reduction in domestic violence within the community
- Supported sex workers through income generating activities

Way station – Spontaneous return of Congolese Refugees

In the last quarter of 2014, UNHCR Sub-Office Mbarara requested HIJRA to support Assisted Spontaneous Returnees by setting up two new way stations (Muhokya and Ishasha) and reestablish Kinyaara way station. Within only a period of three weeks, we set up WASH facilities and shelter for accommodation ready to receive returnees. In the way stations, HIJRA supported spontaneous return of Congolese refugees through the provision of WASH services, hot meals and shelters for accommodation. A total of over 3,100 PoCs were supported.

Due to the significant reduction in the 2015 funding and as a result of the renewed conflict across the border, HIJRA intervention in the way stations has been reduced in 2015.

HIJRA 2015 priorities

In 2014, HIJRA conducted a WASH needs assessment in Adjumani and Arua refugee settlement camps with the intention to expand interventions in Northern Uganda. HIJRA presented the proposal to the UNHCR sub office, and is considering other additional funding opportunities.

HIJRA will continue to support activities in Oruchinga settlement in all sectors. However, due to the significant reduction in the 2015 budget, HIJRA scaled down intervention in Bubukwanga and Nyakabande Transit Centers; and in Kinyaara, Muhokya and Ishasha way stations. However, HIJRA drew up a contingency plan in

case of possible influx of refugees into Uganda in the event of instability occurring in DRC. We are currently in the process to negotiate with UNHCR SOM on the contingency budget. The overall objective of the contingency plan is to ensure that HIJRA has taken adequate preparedness measures to be ready to manage the transit centers in case of an emergency, including issues of staffing.

Partnership Approach

HIJRA is in the fore front in supporting the ReHOPE strategy plan developed by the OPM/UNHCR and the Uganda Government National Development Plan strategy. As a result of one of the pillars, HIJRA entered into partnership with a local NGO, with the aim to strengthen their capacity to respond to emergency needs. In 2014, HIJRA in partnership with Local Partner CAFOMI successfully intervened in Bubukwanga and Nyakabande transit centers. HIJRA provided the overall monitoring of the performance of CAFOMI to implementing activities in the transit centers; in addition, we achieved close coordination and frequent review of Local Partner project budget monitoring mechanisms.

HIJRA Contribution

In April 2014, and through HIJRA partners, we donated a total of 500 pieces of family aqua boxes worth of £64,437 to UNHCR towards the support of refugees in Adjumani and Nakivale settlements. These items were towards the support of WASH activities in refugee settlement to enabling effective delivery of safe water to households in emergencies. In 2014, HIJRA availed its vehicle 100% towards the project thereby saving lease cost up to UGX 65,000,000. HIJRA is also contributing towards building capacity of the local partner CAFOMI. Using its internal resources, HIJRA avail its skilled staff from HQ at least every quarter of the year. This include: finance, human resource and management at cost of UGX 45,100,800.



Figure 1: Improved livelihood through livestock farming