

# South Sudan Situation

1-31 March 2019

## 2,294,757\*

South Sudanese refugees in the region as of 31 March 2019 (pre- and post-Dec 2013 caseload).

## 14,606\*

South Sudanese refugee arrivals in March 2019.

## 297,246

Refugees in South Sudan and 1.91 million IDPs including 194,747 in UNMISS Protection of Civilians sites.

### KEY INDICATORS

## 4.39 million

persons of concern (South Sudanese refugees in the region; South Sudanese IDPs and refugees in South Sudan)

## 63%

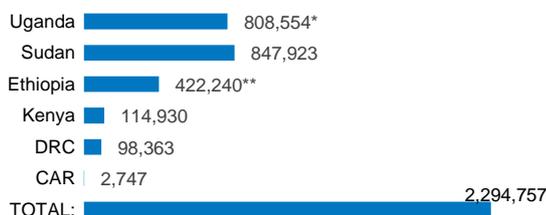
of the South Sudanese refugee population are children (under the age of 18 years old)

## 2,795,827

2019 Regional RRP Planning figure for the total South Sudanese refugees projected in the region by 31 December

### SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEES AS OF 31 JANUARY 2019

## Host Countries



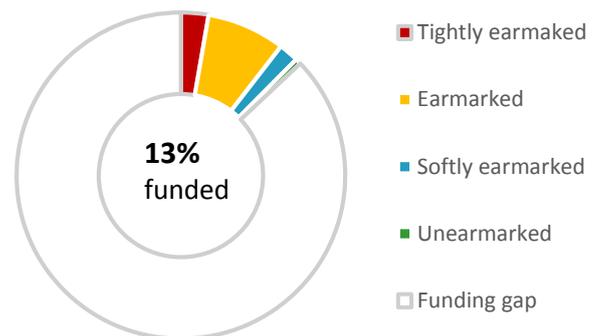
\* The population and arrival figures are based on the final results from verification exercise.

\*\* Population figures for Ethiopia were frozen as of August 2018 due to the roll-out of a new registration system aiming to enhance registration data.

### EARMARKED FUNDING (AS OF 2 APRIL 2019)

## USD 750.6 million

requested for the South Sudan situation



## New Arrivals

	In 2018 (Jan to Dec)	In 2019 (as of March)
CAR	325	171
DRC	6,201	2,674
Ethiopia	19,770**	0**
Kenya	7,325	2,608
Sudan	33,117	8,835
Uganda	40,758	10,723
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>107,496</b>	<b>25,011</b>

## Regional Highlights

- **The UN-backed South Sudan Revitalized Agreement of the Resolution of the Conflict, signed in September 2018, is holding and has led to positive change according to a statement from UN Secretary-General's Special Representative (SRSG) in South Sudan, David Shearer.** According to the SRSG, despite that the population is significantly reliant on life-saving humanitarian assistance and faces high levels of food insecurity, absence of health and education services there is a “palpable” enthusiasm for peace amongst the participants of around 70 different peace-related forums involving representatives of the Government and main opposition figures.
- **The Deputy Chair of the South Sudan National Pre-Transitional Committee (NPTC) held consultations with UNHCR's Regional Refugee Coordinator and Special Advisor for the South Sudan situation. There RRC/SA underscored that** some 4.2 million people have been forcibly displaced both inside the country and across neighbouring countries and that restoration of trust and confidence building measures between the parties to the Revitalised Agreement was key to attain lasting peace.

## Updates and Achievements

### **SOUTH SUDAN**

#### Update

- Women's rights activist and former refugee in Uganda who fled South Sudan in 1995, Loice Kiden, hosts South Sudan's first female-run radio show. 'Peace of Her Mind' – a weekly radio talk show run by women, for women airing on South Sudan's Eye Radio broadcasts across the country. The show, which started airing last autumn, has already tackled child marriage, domestic violence and rape and aims at giving women a voice at a crucial time following the government's promise to ensure 35 per cent of the country's executive positions are filled by women.

#### Achievements and Impact

- **New arrivals:** UNHCR registered some 2,500 new arrivals in March. As of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019, the refugee population in South Sudan stood at 297,246 individuals.

**Education:** While continuously distributing assorted scholastic materials, following a routine school inspection in Ajoung Thok and Pamir refugee camps, UNHCR, partners and state officials from the Ruweng State Ministry of Education noted that there are insufficient furniture and scholastic materials and congestion of classrooms (1:170 students).

- **IDPs:** A joint mission of UNHCR and partners carried out to Maban's Lekka village (Upper Nile) aimed at confirming the return of displaced families who returned in December 2018 from Banabowa IDP site. The challenges facing some 512 families identified during the visit included the need to assist with water by repair of an existing hand pump, and the need for an additional borehole, shelter support, provision of food and domestic items, and health and education facilities.
- **Spontaneous Returns:** As of March 2019, a total of 147,400 individuals were reported to have returned to South Sudan. However, UNHCR is neither facilitating nor promoting refugee returns to South Sudan, as the current conditions are not yet conducive for durable, safe and dignified returns.

## Countries of Asylum

### CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

#### Latest Developments

- **The security situation remains unstable at the border between CAR and South-Sudan due to increased activities of armed groups primarily the LRA, and other groups such as ex-seleka and Anti-Balaka.** Food and cash distribution remains suspended as the South-Sudanese border is still closed preventing the . Importation of food by the World Food Programme.

#### Achievements and Impact

- **In March, the stock of medical products were regularly available except for anti-retroviral medication.** UNHCR is conducting a strong advocacy with the Health Cluster Coordination to enhance the provision of the needed medicines.

### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

#### Latest Developments

- **The new influx of refugees to the border areas of Ituri Province with South Sudan and their relocation to Biringi settlement (Aru Territory, Ituri) is placing pressure on its existing shelter facilities with a gap of 160 shelters.** During the reporting period, 1,001 South Sudanese refugees were biometrically registered and transferred to Biringi settlement.
- **UNHCR is promoting sensitization sessions to enhance the harmony and peaceful coexistence between the different ethnic groups.** While the relocation is ongoing, UNHCR and local authorities faced difficulties to relocate 62 ethnic Dinka refugees to Biringi settlement, due to a lack of acceptance by some members of other ethnic groups.

### Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR has officially handed over to local authorities a primary school in Djambokele (Haut-Uele Province), two football fields (one in Meri settlement and a second one in the town of Aba), a basketball/volleyball field, a multipurpose facility in Meri, and a water point for the benefit of the refugees and the host population.

## ETHIOPIA

### Latest Developments

- **The security situation in Gambella remains difficult.** Attacks against refugees have been reported. On 23<sup>rd</sup> March, two refugees were killed by unknown men in Gambella while hunting near Pugnido camp.

### Achievements and Impact

- Following strong advocacy efforts by UNHCR and partners with the Agency for Refugees and Returnees Affairs (ARRA), 77 South Sudanese were relocated to Gure-Shembola camp in the Benishangul-Gumuz region to ease the pressure in Gambella region.

## KENYA

### Latest Developments

- On 1 April 2019, UNHCR, partners and the Turkana County Government jointly launched the Kalobeyei Integrated Socio-Economic Development Programme (KISEDPP) in Kakuma.

### Achievements and Impact

- **The UNHCR Kenya operation has successfully migrated to the new version of Progress V4.** Training on the new version of progress has been conducted for staff and the protection innovative tools were reconfigured to operate with the new version of Progress V4.

## SUDAN

### Latest Developments

- **Sudan's 'State of Emergency' enacted in February has raised protection concerns for refugees and asylum seekers across the country,** especially in urban areas where demonstrations are frequent and refugees face higher risk of detention. UNHCR and partners have disseminated messaging to refugee communities on ways to mitigate protection issues during this period.

- **Over 14,000 eligible refugee children are without access to secondary school classes in White Nile state.** Due to the lack of funding for secondary education programming, some 2,000 refugees are attending classes in un-used buildings or primary schools in the evenings and others have to move out of camp to larger host communities as there are no secondary schools in the camps and in the most host communities in the state.

### Achievements and Impact

- **In March, UNHCR, partners and the Government of Sudan's Commission for Refugees (COR) conducted a second post-harvest assessment for South Sudanese refugees in White Nile state.** It examined experiences of over 100,000 refugees from across all nine camps in 2018 who were employed in harvesting activities, and identified challenges and protection issues that refugees faced, namely low wages, breach of employment contracts, injuries and inadequate shelter. The number of refugees engaging in 2018 harvesting activities has significantly increased compared to 2017 when close to 30, 000 refugees engaged in these activities.
- **The World Food Programme (WFP) launched a new multi-purpose cash assistance programme in Al Nimir Camp and El Ferdous settlement in East Darfur.** The combined package of in-kind food and cash has reduced refugees' need to sell their food rations to cover their other basic needs and dietary preferences and has benefitted 15,166 refugee families so far.

## UGANDA

### Latest Developments

- **On 5 March 2019, a joint report by UNHCR and UNDP on Rule of Law, Access to Justice and Security Needs of Refugees and Host Communities was launched in Kampala.** The study mainly focused on the review of existing coordination mechanisms and map actors, identification of service gaps among formal and informal justice institutions, including courts of law and police in enhancing Rule of Law, Access to Justice and security of refugees and host communities in Arua and Isingiro districts.
- **On 27 March 2019, the Parliamentary Forum on Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (PFR-IDPs) was launched in Kampala** aiming to advocate for laws, policies, programs and rights for refugees and internally displaced persons in Uganda to support their socio-economic livelihood.

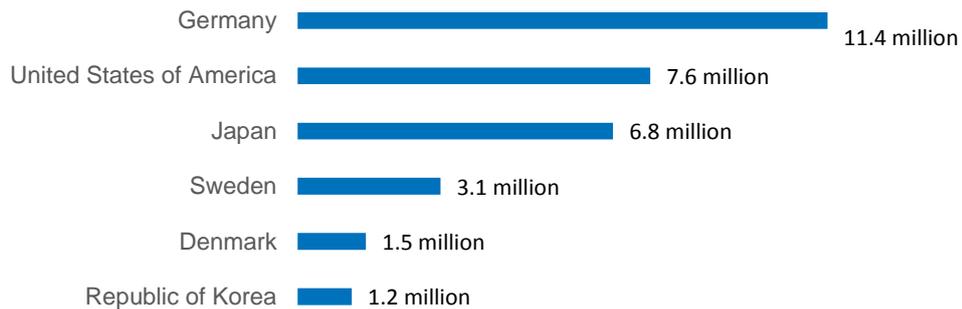
### Achievements and Impact

- **20 secondary education scholarships were awarded to South Sudanese refugee students from Lobule, Imvepi, Rhino Camp and Bidibidi refugee settlements.** The secondary education scholarship is under the MasterCard Foundation Scholarship implemented by Building Resources Across Communities (BRAC).

## Financial Information

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to the South Sudan situation as well as for those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.

Total contributions for the South Sudan Situation amount to some **USD 97.1 million.**



### Special thanks to the major donors of softly earmarked and regional funds in 2019 | USD

United States of America 78.6 million | Denmark 9.9 million | Japan 7 million | United Kingdom 6.9 million | Sweden 4.4 million

### Special thanks to the major donors of unearmarked contributions | USD

Sweden 90.4 million | Norway 44.5 million | Netherlands 37.5 million | United Kingdom 31.7 million | Germany 26.7 million | Denmark 24.4 million | Private donors Spain 19.5 million | Switzerland 15.1 million

## External / Donors Relations

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### LINKS

Regional Data Portal: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/southsudan>

UNHCR South Sudan situation Page: <https://www.unhcr.org/south-sudan-emergency.html>

UNHCR South Sudan situation Global Focus: <http://reporting.unhcr.org/node/20>

Recent News Story: <https://www.unhcr.org/news/stories/2019/3/5c80a1274/guardian-angel-offers-lifeline-abused-refugee-women-south-sudan.html>