



SOUTH SUDAN SITUATION

REGIONAL UPDATE

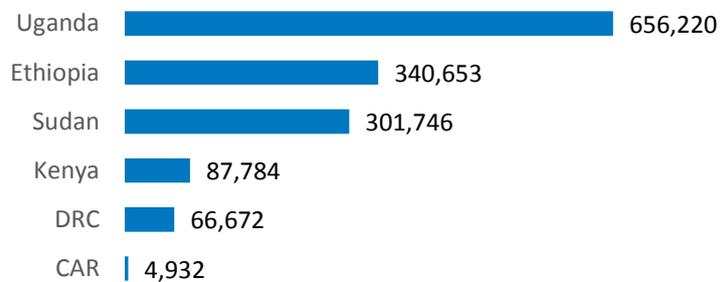
1 – 15 January 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

- **In South Sudan**, UNHCR and partners Humanitarian Development Consortium (HDC), WFP and South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC), conducted a rapid need assessment in Maban to the areas hosting IDPs after the December unrest.
- **In Sudan**, UNHCR completed the compilation of refugee arrival figures in 2016 from relevant partners at the start of January. Over 130,000 South Sudanese refugees arrived in Sudan in 2016, of a total of 297,468 refugees arriving in the country since the start of South Sudan’s conflict in December 2013.
- **In Uganda**, community outreach and focus group discussions with women and girls in Bidibidi indicate that violence within families is often caused by a lack of secure shelter and the vulnerability of female-headed households following alcohol abuse, contributing to incidents of rape. Some 138 outreach and awareness raising activities were conducted in all zones of Bidibidi, reaching a total of 9,494 refugees, including 4,326 youth and adolescents.

Population of concern

A total of **1,458,162** South Sudanese refugees as of 15 January 2017



**The population and arrival figures are based on best available information at the time of production. UNHCR continues to verify the numbers in all countries and future updates may vary as new information becomes available. The arrivals into Uganda since July 1 are based on manual emergency registration or head-counts/wrist-banding. Actual population to be confirmed upon biometric registration by the Government.*

KEY FIGURES

22,876*

South Sudanese arrivals in 2017, based on field reports as of 15 Jan 2017

1,458,162*

Total South Sudanese refugees as of 15 January 2017 (pre and post Dec 2013 caseload and new arrivals)

262,560

Refugees in South Sudan

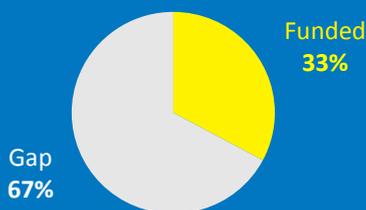
1.853 M

Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in South Sudan, including 204,370 people in UNMISS Protection of Civilians site

FUNDING (as of 27 Jan 2017)

USD 649.0 M

Requested by UNHCR in 2016 for the South Sudan situation



UPDATE ON THE SITUATION

For more detailed information on the South Sudan situation response in specific country operations, kindly refer to the latest county updates, hyperlinked below and available on the portal: data.unhcr.org/southsudan



[Ethiopia](#)



[Kenya](#)



[South Sudan](#)



[Sudan](#)



[Uganda](#)

Please note: Country-specific updates from CAR and DRC will be available on the data portal in the near future.

SOUTH SUDAN

Latest developments

- In Maban, UNHCR and partners Humanitarian Development Consortium (HDC), WFP and South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC), conducted a rapid needs assessment in the areas hosting IDPs after the December unrest. At the riverbank site, the team identified 1,207 households (6,053 individuals) living in the open who were displaced from Doro and Tweji. The team visited the second IDP site at Haj Stipta that is hosting 348 households (1,923 individuals). The main findings included the need for food, core relief items and shelter.
- UNHCR South Sudan and Ethiopia are continuing to monitor the situation in Nasir town, Upper Nile, for potential movements over the border to Ethiopia. Intense fighting erupted in Nasir on 2 January and the area is currently restricted, with unconfirmed reports of the displacement of people from nearby villages.
- UNHCR took part in an inter-agency assessment on 4 January after humanitarian actors in Yambio witnessed mass displacement of families in five villages within a 40km radius of Yambio. Over 4,000 IDPs are now sheltering together in a primary school within the town and UNHCR will provide assistance as part of the inter-agency response. The refugee camp of Makpandu remained unreachable for the majority of December and through to 9 January 2017, with attacks on vehicles along the road to the camp persisting.

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR relocated 321 refugees previously settled in Yida to Pamir in the first half of January. Cumulatively, Pamir is now home to 6,862 refugees since opening in September 2016.
- In Juba, UNHCR and the South Sudan Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA) resumed screenings for refugees and screened 86 Sudanese refugees, previously settled in Lasu refugee settlement, who have been displaced to Juba as a result of the violence in July 2016 and are now seeking voluntary relocation to Ajuong Thok camp.
- In Ajuong Thok camp, Unity, UNHCR distributed 1,500 Fuel Efficient Stoves (FES) to 730 refugee households to reduce firewood collection, the risk of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) and environmental degradation
- In Bentiu and Rubkona towns, Unity state, UNHCR and cluster partners the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and UNICEF conducted a protection assessment to identify vulnerable cases for humanitarian intervention. The joint assessment identified 69 households (301 individuals) who need material support.
- In Upper Nile, UNHCR and its partners HDC and DRC distributed hygiene kits to 1,360 Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs) in the Malakal Protection of Civilians (PoC) site. UNHCR and its partners HDC and Samaritan's Purse also distributed non-food items to 2,464 IDPs newly displaced from Tweji.

Countries of Asylum

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Latest Developments

- During the reporting period, some 10 new refugee arrivals were received in Obo. The new arrivals had made

their way directly from South Sudan.

- **The final report on the relocation exercise of South Sudanese refugees from Bambouti to Obo was released on 15 January.** Of the 1,028 refugees relocated in the nine convoys between 22 October and 27 December, 51.5 per cent were male, 48.5 per cent were female, and some 42.5 per cent were children. The report makes a number of key recommendations in order to strengthen the response to any future influx, including: an early warning system using high frequency radios or satellite telephones stationed in Bambouti; sensitisation for the Central African Armed Forces (FACA); pre-identification of transportation to transfer the refugees' belongings, and the provision of communal tents in Bambouti to serve as temporary shelter for new arrivals prior to their relocation.

Achievements and Impact

- **Child protection, in particular the protection of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), is of serious concern among the Bambouti/Obo population.** UNHCR began conducting individual specific assessments in order to identify the protection needs of affected children.
- **Preparation for biometric registration and verification activities began on 11 January with the arrival of the team in Obo to begin installation.** Additional water points are also being installed on-site to improve access to potable water. With a shortage of available food in Obo itself, UNHCR is also looking into applying a voucher system for future food distributions.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Latest developments

- **Spontaneous arrivals continued at Meri site (Faradje Territory, Haut-Uélé Province), with 307 South Sudanese refugees arriving from the nearby locality of Kurukwata.** Refugees reported killings, ethnic tensions and the difficulty to find food as reasons for flight. The relocation of South Sudanese refugees to Biringi site (Aru Territory, Ituri Province) continues with a total of 862 refugees relocated as of 15 January.
- **The security situation remained calm in most refugee arrival areas.** However, in Sugba (Dungu Territory, Haut-Uélé Province), an incursion of the South Sudanese militia "Palanga Abolo" was reported during the night of 10 January, affecting both the local population and the refugees.
- **The host community, particular young people, requested UNHCR and partners to provide more employment opportunities for local people** in establishing refugee sites and rehabilitating infrastructure in Biringi and Meri. Relocation convoys have been temporarily halted in order to resolve the issue.

Achievements and Impact

- **Registration:** The number of registered refugees increased by 1,085 during the period under review. As of 15 January there were 13,256 individuals at Meri site and 1,124 at Biringi site.
- **Protection:** In Meri, UNHCR partner ADES sensitized both refugees and local community at on Congolese law on SGBV, particularly physical assault and forced marriage. In Biringi, six cases of physical assault were recorded. In total, 27 cases of SGBV have been recorded since the beginning of the relocation to Biringi.
- **Education:** ADSSE provided French classes for 884 refugee children at Biringi and Meri to allow them to attend local schools.
- **Basic assistance:** In Biringi, 3,662 refugee households who were registered on WFP lists received the first Cash Grant distribution of an amount of \$12 per person. AIRD distributed 649 kg of food from WFP to 41 unaccompanied children. In Meri, 1047 refugees received medical consultation at three health centers in Aba, with 98 refugees referred to appropriate medical structures for further services. In Aru transit centre, 18 refugees received medical consultations and care. AIRD distributed core relief items to 3,395 households (11,505 individuals) at Meri and 39 unaccompanied children in Biringi.

ETHIOPIA

Latest developments

- **Some 1,625 South Sudanese refugees have arrived in Ethiopia between 1 and 17 January 2017,** with a total of 54,466 arrivals since 3 September 2016 when the major influx began. The newly arrived refugees come predominantly from Upper Nile State.
- **During the reporting period, 16 South Sudanese have been received in Tsore refugee camp after entering through Yabus.** Some of the new arrivals reported that refugees were killed by members of the Nuer tribe while

trying to flee to Gambella. As a result, they opted for the much longer route towards Assosa. Most of the new arrivals report access to education and family reunification as their main reasons for fleeing to Ethiopia.

- **UNHCR is updating its contingency plan in view of the worsening situation in South Sudan, particularly in Nasir.** As previously reported, UNHCR and partners are in the process of assessing resources needed to ensure preparedness in case a renewed influx of refugees from South Sudan to Ethiopia.

Achievements and Impact

- **Level two registration is ongoing for the new arrivals in Jewi and Tierkidi refugee camps,** with 97 per cent of the 27,066 new arrivals relocated to the camps since 3 September 2016 now registered at level two. Level two registration in Nguenyiel camp will commence once Tierkidi and Jewi are fully finalised.
- **UNHCR and partners continue to undertake child protection activities both at the entry point and in the camps in Gambella.** Between 3 September and 17 January, 10,640 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) have arrived in Pagak entry point and 250 UASC have arrived at Akobo entry point. An average of 2,155 children participated in child friendly activities at Pagak entry point with support of Plan International. An average of 851 refugee and host community youths participated in youth space activities in Pagak.
- **In Nguenyiel, the construction of two permanent women and girl friendly spaces have been completed and a SGBV safety audit was conducted.** SGBV awareness raising, home visits to advocate for timely reporting and the establishment of GBV Safety Groups and other prevention activities are ongoing at Pagak and the camps.
- **UNHCR, the Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) and partners jointly commenced shelter verification exercise in Kule refugee camp.** Once it is finalized in Kule refugee, this exercise will be undertaken in the other three refugee camps in Gambella.

KENYA

Latest developments

- **A total of 827 new arrivals from South Sudan were registered in the first half of January.** Protection border monitoring visits were conducted at Nadapal on 5 and 12 January 2017. Some 334 new arrivals were received and brought to the reception facility in Kakuma Refugee Camp for registration. No case of *refoulement* was reported at the Nadapal Border.
- **The population of UASC stands at 9,748, including 51 children registered in the first half of January.**

Achievements and Impact

- **SGBV prevention and response activities were ongoing in Kakuma and Kalobeyei settlement.** A total of 12 SGBV cases were reported among the South Sudanese refugee population during the reporting period. Comprehensive medical and psychosocial support was offered to survivors and referrals were conducted for appropriate services, including legal and material support.
- **Construction of a Safe Space was finalized and is now fully functional at Kalobeyei settlement.** The facility helps SGBV survivors to seek psychosocial counselling and case management services in a confidential and enabling environment and also provides a venue for SGBV community outreach activities.
- **Coordination meetings were held to discuss emerging issues in SGBV programming including a rise in the number of reported cases.** Recommendations included strengthened community engagement, effective referral systems and flagging of general protection cases to UNHCR for follow-up. A training is scheduled for Kalobeyei partners on lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and/or intersex (LGBTI) protection and mainstreaming the same in reproductive health services at Kalobeyei.

SUDAN

Latest developments

- **UNHCR Sudan completed the compilation of refugee arrival figures in 2016 from relevant partners at the start of January.** Over 130,000 South Sudanese refugees arrived in Sudan in 2016, of a total of 297,468 refugees arriving in country since the start of South Sudan's conflict in December 2013.
- **In West Kordofan, the state government reported that 834 South Sudanese refugees have recently arrived in the state via El Meriam,** with approximately 416 individuals having transited from East Darfur. They are reportedly in need of food, shelter and material assistance in the state capital of El Fula. UNHCR will conduct a

mission to the area to identify an appropriate response and coordinate with partners on the ground. Some refugees have indicated their intention to travel onward to Khartoum and other destinations.

Achievements and Impact

- **UNHCR continues to strengthen its child protection coverage in South Kordofan.** During the reporting period, partners with support from UNHCR identified 40 UASC and coordinated best interest assessments (BIAs) with the state government. The state Child Protection Working Group also met to advance plans to strengthen a Child Protection Information Management System in 2017. Partners led Parent & Teacher Association (PTAs) training workshops for 96 PTA members from both the refugee and host communities, with capacity building for child protection, emergency education, and management of Temporary Learning Spaces focused on girls' education.
- **Sudan's Commission for Refugees (COR) and UNHCR continue to conduct individual biometric registration at the Kario refugee site in East Darfur.** Nearly 2,800 South Sudanese refugees (of an estimated 13,500 individuals) have been biometrically registered since the process began in December 2016. A UNHCR mission is planned for late January to support the process. Expansion of biometric registration to the Al Nimir site (a second site in East Darfur) is planned for early 2017, once site development is complete. Protection initiatives are also underway at the Kario site. UNHCR will conduct trainings by end of January on refugee protection principles and best practice for police in East Darfur. The construction of police accommodation at the site was recently completed, and government partners have deployed police officers to support the protection of refugees living at the site.

UGANDA

Latest developments

- **Over 16,000 refugees were received in Uganda from South Sudan, with the arrival rate continuing to increase.** The majority of South Sudanese refugees arrive in Uganda through informal border points, with over 500 refugees arriving in Uganda through the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in the first half of January. Refugees continue to cite violence and indiscriminate killing of civilians, nightly attacks on homes, sexual violence, looting of livestock and property, unsubstantiated accusations of collaboration with opposition groups, fear of arrest and torture and lack of food and other basic necessities as reasons for leaving South Sudan.
- **Refugees report that while traveling through the bush in South Sudan to reach Uganda, armed groups prevent them from harvesting food left in abandoned gardens and farms.** They also allege that armed forces are burning the bush, including farms and gardens, in order to clear the area of rival groups.

Achievements and Impact

- **The relocation of refugees to Palorinya Settlement continued, with 43,770 refugees being received in the settlement since 9th December 2016.** A biometric registration centre has been established in Palorinya Zone II to expedite the relocation of refugees from Palorinya Reception Centre to their allocated plots.
- **In Moyo, a Legislation Desk has been established at Lefori collection point** to address refugees' queries related to registration, nationality screening and related issues.
- **In Bidibidi, an upsurge of inquiries related to family reunification has been noted at the Protection Information and Counselling Desks (PICD),** particularly in relation to refugees seeking to join their family directly from South Sudan.
- **SGBV response:** In Bidibidi, 107 survivors of sexual and gender-based violence were identified, bringing the total SGBV cases reported in the settlement since it opened in August to 491. In Moyo, 13 SGBV cases were identified, all of whom were female; seven were cases of early marriage, three of physical violence, two of sexual assault and one of emotional violence. In Adjumani, three female SGBV survivors were identified. In all cases, referrals were made to ensure that the particular needs of each survivor were addressed, including legal, medical and psychosocial needs.
- **SGBV prevention:** In Bidibidi, community outreach and focus group discussions with women and girls indicate that violence within family is often caused by lack of secure shelter and the vulnerability of female-headed households following alcohol abuse contributing to incidence of rape. Some 138 outreach and awareness raising activities were conducted in all zones of Bidibidi, reaching a total of 9,494 refugees, including 4,326 youth and adolescents. In Moyo, 698 refugees were reached through awareness raising sessions conducted on SGBV prevention and response in Palorinya Zone I and Lefori Collection Point.

- **Child Protection:** In Bidibidi, 552 children at risk were identified, bringing the total number of children with specific needs identified in the settlement to 3,657. Some 107 children were referred for shelter assistance and 139 children were monitored through home visits. In Moyo, 340 children at risk were identified, including 332 unaccompanied and separated children, and 153 best interest assessments were conducted in Palorinya settlement. In Adjumani, twelve unaccompanied children in Agojo settlement were relocated from the children's shelter at which they had been living and placed with foster families.
- **Efforts to identify and register school-age children continued in Bidibidi and Moyo settlements,** to ensure children are registered for the 2017 school year.
- **The leading causes of illness across the settlements continued to be malaria, Acute Respiratory tract infections, acute watery diarrhea and injuries.** In Bidibidi, over 18,000 outpatient consultations were conducted in the first two weeks of January, among which 12 per cent were for members of the host population. Some 170 mental health cases were registered in the settlement and are being followed up. In Moyo, some 11,000 outpatient consultations were conducted. Children continued to be vaccinated against measles and polio, receive vitamin A supplements and be dewormed.
- **In Bidibidi, a total of 2,516 children aged six to 59 months and 406 pregnant and lactating women have been identified and enrolled in nutrition programmes and 2,378 children are enrolled in the nutrition centres for rehabilitation.** The default rate among children aged under five in the supplementary feeding programme was estimated at 13.4 per cent in the second week of January, compared to 7.8 per cent in the previous week. The continuous movement of refugees between the zones of the settlement accounts for much of the defaulting, and efforts to follow up defaulters and track their movements are ongoing.
- **There has been improvement in the supply and provision of water to the population in Bidibidi through upgrading of various boreholes and pumping of high yield ones.** Congestion at boreholes has reduced as trucks have a shorter waiting time to collect water. However water provision remains a priority in the response.

CRITICAL NEEDS AND GAPS

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Education: According to the latest statistics, out of a total of 345 school-aged South Sudanese refugee children, less than 30 attend school. Parents have drawn UNHCR's attention to the difficulty of adapting to French, the language of instruction in the CAR education system, as opposed to the English curriculum employed in South Sudan. There is also an increased risk of violence or accidents as children travel to and from classes due to remote location of the schools.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Protection: There is need for further awareness-building for refugees and members of the local community on sexual and gender-based violence, in order to prevent further incidents.

UGANDA

Protection: UNHCR continues to prioritise the registration and relocation exercise in Palorinya. Further engagement with refugees, refugee leaders and host community members is needed to encourage co-existence and peace-building activities.

Education: Educational structures need to be in place prior to the next academic year. There is a huge gap in the education sector in the settlements due to lack of sufficient resources, and the enrolment rate at secondary level is around 6 per cent due to a lack of scholarship opportunities. Efforts are ongoing to identify more scholarship opportunities to address this.

Laura Swanson, Assistant Information Management Officer (Reporting), swanson@unhcr.org, Tel: +254 20 422 2705

Wendy Rappeport, Senior External Relations Officer, rappepor@unhcr.org, Cell: +41 (0)79 881 9183

Links:

For more information please visit: <http://data.unhcr.org/SouthSudan/regional.php>