

Uganda: 2017 End of Year Report

SOUTH SUDAN - REGIONAL RRP

December 2017



1,037,898

SOUTH SUDAN
REFUGEES IN UGANDA
(DEC 2017)

US \$674 M

REQUIRED IN UGANDA IN
2017

34%

FUNDING RECEIVED
(DEC 2017)

82

RRRP PARTNERS IN
UGANDA

SITUATION OVERVIEW

In 2017, some 354,556 new refugees from South Sudan sought safety in Uganda, citing fears of sexual and physical violence, political uncertainty, forced recruitment of children, looting and food insecurity as reasons for fleeing their country of origin.

By 31 December 2017, the number of South Sudanese refugees in Uganda reached 1,037,898, of which 61 percent were children. More than 965,000 refugees settled in northern Uganda, mainly in Yumbe, Arua, Adjumani and Moyo districts, with six percent in midwestern Uganda (Hoima district) and one percent in Kampala.

The government of Uganda continued to grant South Sudanese asylum seekers refugee status on a *prima facie* basis as well as a wide range of human rights, including freedom of movement, right to work and establish businesses, the right to documentation and access to national services, in line with the 2006 Refugee Act.

Partners provided all new arrivals with reception assistance at entry points and collection centres as well as relocation to settlements. The Refugee Department of the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) continued to undertake registration and documentation through the Refugee Information Management System (RIMS), though delays have been recurrent throughout the year due to sheer magnitude of the crisis, lack of connectivity and insufficient capacity.

In the settlements, new arrivals received monthly food rations, household items and access to health care, education, water and sanitation facilities and protection services. They were also allocated a plot of land for housing and farming – donated by host communities.

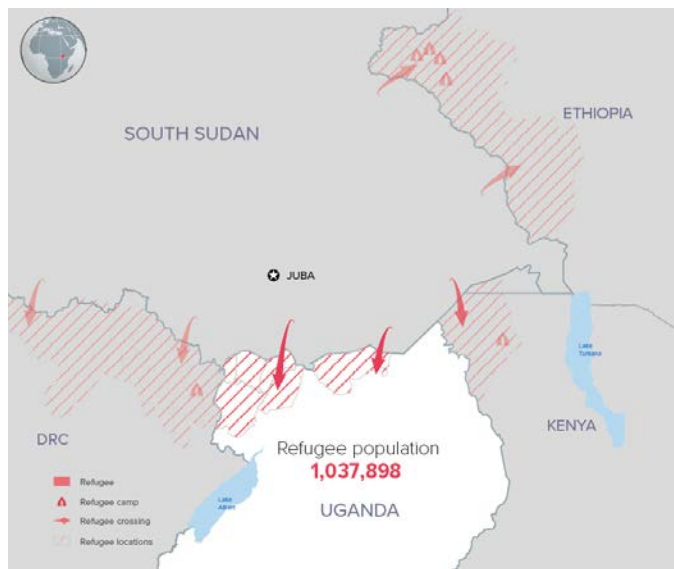
In 2017, the Uganda Operation was compelled to open three new settlements: Imvepi, Rhino extension and Palabek, which hosted 176,020 refugees by the end of the year. A master settlement plan was developed to help restructure existing settlements into sites of manageable size.

Insufficient funding severely affected the ability of partners to stabilize existing programmes and embark on long-term interventions. Phasing out water trucking in new settlement areas remained a key challenge, despite the progress made to increase access to water through sustainable systems. Limited resources have also affected investments in prevention and response to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), children's education, environmental protection, support to host communities, and permanent community infrastructure.

In early 2017, Uganda launched the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework, embracing existing initiatives, mechanisms and policies seeking to address the needs of refugees and host communities in Uganda.

The President of Uganda and the UN Secretary General convened in June 2017 at the Solidarity Summit on Refugees in Kampala to rally global support for refugees and host communities, raising US \$520 million in pledges.

Following serious allegations of fraud and corruption within the refugee response, UNHCR and WFP reached out to the government in late 2017 to seek cooperation in addressing growing concerns about the accuracy and reliability of refugee data. In acknowledging the risks it posed to the aim of realising a comprehensive refugee response, the government and UNHCR agreed to launch a verification of all refugees in Uganda in 2018 through the use of UNHCR biometric systems.




Protection

355,000+
new South Sudanese refugee arrivals **granted refugee status** in 2017



19,587
South Sudanese refugee children with specific needs received **individual case management** and follow up



1,500
people trained on **SGBV prevention & response**, incl. partner staff, government officials & police



South Sudanese asylum seekers continued to be granted refugee status on a *prima facie* basis. Protection monitoring along the South Sudan-Uganda border ensured that all new arrivals were provided with reception assistance and transferred to settlements, and that persons with specific needs were identified and referred to relevant services. With children representing 61 percent of the entire refugee population from South Sudan, partners focused on enhancing identification, documentation and assessment of children’s needs, in addition to providing specialised case management for children at risk.

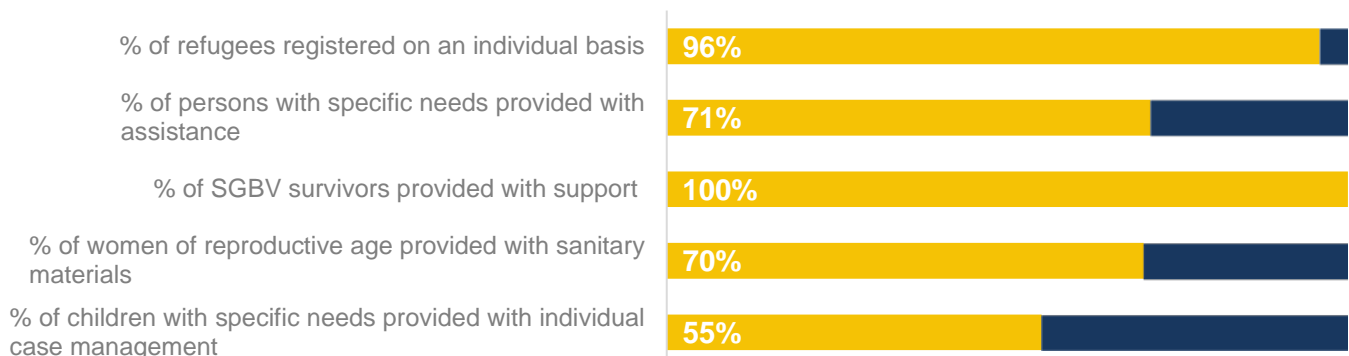
Limited funding severely affected the ability of the partners to adequately support prevention and response to SGBV. As a result, efforts were directed towards reinforcing community-based protection structures and approaches, including Start, Awareness, Support, Action (SASA) methodology, Engaging Men in Accountable Practice (EMAP) and Safe from the Start. Protection desks, information support centres, and women’s centres were also strengthened to serve, among others, as entry points for assistance and referral of SGBV survivors.

Key Achievements

- 355,556 new refugee arrivals granted refugee status, with no cases of refoulment in 2017.
- Best interest assessment conducted for 23,992 children at risk.
- 3,547 SGBV survivors provided with psychosocial support, medical and legal assistance.
- 4,686 unaccompanied minors and separated children placed in foster care.
- 217 unaccompanied minors and separated children reunited with their families.
- 350 community-based child protection structures established or strengthened.

Remaining Gaps

- Only 59 percent of South Sudanese children received psychosocial support, education and recreation services in 2017
- Insufficient livelihood and skills development opportunities for 185,921 youth.
- Need for 21 additional child friendly spaces.
- Limited livelihood opportunities for and support to foster families.
- SGBV incidents remain underreported
- Limited support for children with disabilities
- Children to case worker ratio stood at 150:1, above the standard of 25:1.
- Inadequate police services and posts.
- Access to justice remained limited, especially for refugees living in the settlements.



Education

 **223,400** South Sudanese refugee children were enrolled in **primary education** in 2017

Insufficient number of primary & secondary teachers  with more than **60 pupils per teacher**

43% of primary-aged children  **88%** of secondary-aged children were not enrolled in education in 2017

In Uganda, refugee children have access to universal primary education, pre-primary education, secondary education, vocational skills and tertiary institutions. However, the mass influx of refugees overstretched the capacity of schools in refugee-hosting districts, creating enormous needs in terms of addition teachers, new classrooms, furniture, learning materials, and accelerated education programmes.

The 2017-2020 strategic plan of the Ministry of Education and Sports clearly documents the need for provision of education to refugees and host communities with the aim of increasing equitable access. To complement this plan, in 2017 partners a four-year Education Response Plan for Refugees and Host Communities for 2018-2021.

Key Achievements

- 2,413 teachers supported with payment of salary.
- 346 classrooms constructed.
- 242 schools supplied with education materials.
- Ministry of Education and Sports and Ministry of Works and Transport approved the design for semi-permanent classrooms in refugee-hosting areas.
- Education Cannot Wait launched in Uganda to bridge the divide between education in emergency and development.

Remaining Gaps

- Only 57 percent of primary school aged children enrolled in primary education.
- Only 12 percent of secondary school aged children enrolled in secondary education.
- Insufficient classrooms to meet the government requirement of one classroom per 53 pupils.
- Limited quantities of textbooks to meet the standard of one book per 3 students.

% of primary school aged children enrolled in primary education

57%

% of secondary school aged children enrolled in secondary education

12%


% of school aged children attending school/learning spaces


43%

Food

904,951 refugees received food assistance in 2017

141,751 via cash transfer  **763,200** via in-kind food 

 **600,000** refugees received an **emergency cash transfer** in Sep 2017 in response to a shortage of cereal

 **30% of planned** food commodities could not be purchased due to funding shortfalls

The vast majority of South Sudanese refugees remained heavily dependent on food and nutrition assistance in 2017, with few being able to provide for themselves using the land given by the Ugandan government or host communities. Due to a critical funding shortfall, food rations for refugees were cut by 50 percent between August and December 2017 which affected refugees who arrived before July 2015, except for extremely vulnerable individuals and those receiving nutrition support. There were also pipeline shortfalls with cereal portions cut by up to 50 percent in May 2017. All refugees were affected including new arrivals who arrived before May 2017. Distribution of cereals for hot

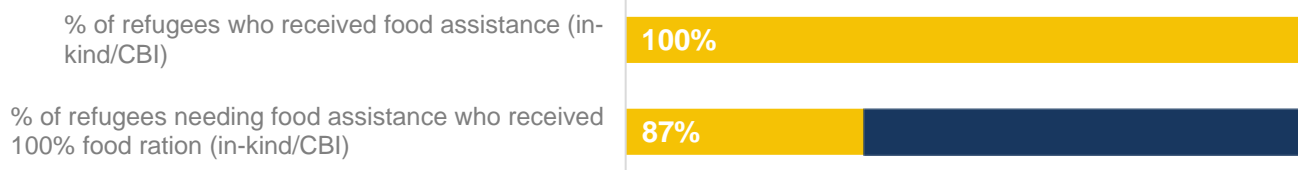
meals, nutrition programmes, and settling-in rations of newly arrived households were not affected. These situations have likely contributed to a declining food security, compounded by unreliable rainfall patterns and refugees' limited access to sufficient and quality agricultural inputs.

Key Achievements

- 113,075 metric tons of food provided through GFDs.
- Dietary diversity score increased to 3.8 in 2017, from 3.7 in 2016.


Remaining Gaps

- Vast majority of refugees are unable to produce their own food.
- 30 percent of the planned food commodities could not be purchased due to funding shortfalls.
- Limited food stocks available for local and regional procurement due to droughts.
- Food pipeline breakages remain unpredictable.



Health & Nutrition

1,557,987
consultations made in 2017, 20% for the host community



113,860 South Sudanese refugees children vaccinated against **measles**
Crude Mortality Rate: 0.1/1,000/month (within the acceptable standard)



50,434 mothers & children reached with the **Mother-and-Child Health & Nutrition Programme**



The health status of the South Sudan refugee population remained within acceptable standards in 2017, with both crude mortality rate and under five mortality rate equal to 0.1 death for every 1,000 people, per month. Both refugees and their host communities had equal access to primary health care and referrals to tertiary institutions, with nearly 1.56 million consultations in 2017 of which 20 percent benefitted the host community.

In the context of cholera and hemorrhagic fever outbreaks in South Sudan in 2017, partners deployed resources to strengthen traditional and community-based disease surveillance systems. However, no outbreaks of notifiable diseases were reported in 2017.

All new arrivals received a screening package, including vaccination, nutrition assessment, deworming, vitamin A administration and screening for chronic diseases.

In 2017, extensive efforts were made to increase integration of humanitarian health services into the government health care system. In locations where health facilities were part of the local government development plans, semi-permanent and permanent structures were improved to better address the need of an increasing population.

The prevalence of Acute Global Malnutrition (GAM) remained at 10%, within the acceptable standard, with Palabek settlement recording the highest rate (12.4 percent). Anemia among children aged 6-59 months was reported as “high” (48%), and “medium” among non-pregnant women aged 15-49 years (32%), according to WHO classification.

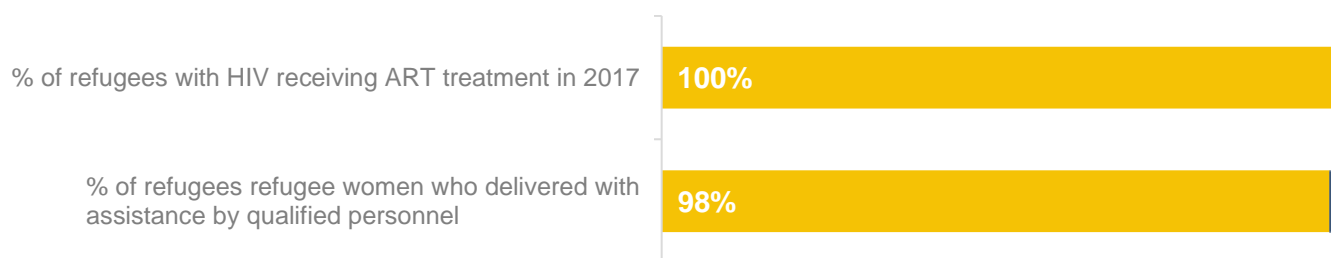
Key Achievements

- Deployment of 33 ambulances to support referral services.
- 12 outpatient department facilities constructed.
- Essential medicines maintained in stock throughout the year.
- 20,188 children treated for moderate malnutrition and another 4,335 for acute malnutrition.
- 50,434 refugees reached with Mother-and-Child Health and Nutrition programmes.

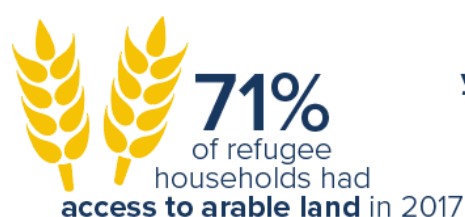
Remaining Gaps

- 50 additional health workers needed, including nurses, midwives, clinicians and medical officers.
- Five additional medical stores needed in Imvepi, Rhino, Bidibidi and Palorinya settlements.
- Upgrade and accreditation of six permanent and three semi-permanent health facilities by Ministry of Health.
- 10 additional ambulances needed for referral services.

- Operationalisation of two Health Centre level IV in Arua and one in Bidibidi is pending.



Livelihoods & Environment



In 2017, **only 50%** of youth were engaged in skills development training 



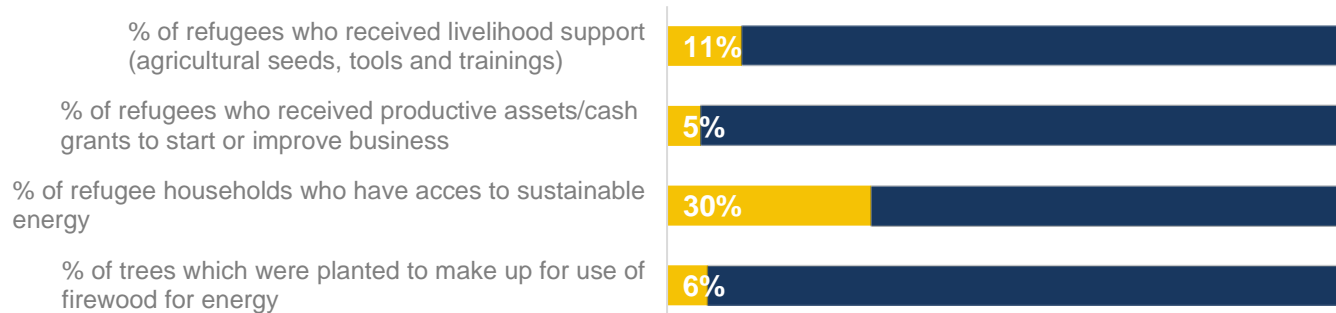
In 2017, RRP partners shifted their focus from emergency to recovery livelihoods, though interventions remained largely around agricultural production with limited opportunities for business development, micro-credit and vocational skills training. Livelihood assistance reached only 18 percent of refugees in 2017, including support in agricultural and livestock production, cash grants and access to formal financial services and training. A value chain analysis and market systems development assessment, conducted in Arua and Yumbe towards the end of 2017, will provide a framework for partners to pursue and encourage market-driven opportunities for self-reliance of refugees and host communities. Refugees remain almost entirely dependent on natural resources for water, food and shelter materials. With a steady increase in environmental degradation, groundwater recharge and access to basic needs decreases with risks to peaceful coexistence and exposure to SGBV. It is imperative that mitigation measures be mainstreamed across all sectors, especially WASH, Livelihood, and Shelters & Site planning.

Key Achievements

- 114,186 refugees received livelihood support, including agricultural seeds, tools and trainings.
- 59,033 refugees received start-up capital grants and material for business development.
- 12,907 refugees accessed loans through Village Saving and Loan Association (VSLA) groups.

Remaining Gaps


- Available agricultural land is inadequate for refugees to produce sufficient food to supplement food rations.
- Very limited livelihoods opportunities in the non-farm sector.
- Access to conventional financial services is almost non-existent in the settlements



Shelter & NFIs

 **354,556**
newly arrived **South Sudanese refugees**
 received non-food items in 2017

 **1,226km** of in-settlement & access roads constructed, repaired or rehabilitated in 2017

 Only **37%** of South Sudanese refugees with specific needs received **semi-permanent shelter** in 2017

In 2017, all new arrivals were provided with communal temporary shelter in transit and reception centres. After that they were relocated to settlements, given a plot of land for housing and cultivation by the government of Uganda and host communities, in addition to household items such as sleeping mats, blankets, kitchen sets, water cans and plastic sheets. Three new settlements were opened to accommodate new refugee arrivals from South Sudan, whilst developing a master settlement plan to help restructure existing settlements into sites of manageable sizes. Underfunding severely limited the ability of the operation to make the necessary investments to transition from temporary to semi-permanent and permanent structures, including schools, shelters and recreational facilities, as well as roads.

Key Achievements

- 191,327 emergency shelter kits distributed.
- 4,437 emergency shelters upgraded to semi-permanent shelters.
- 346 classrooms constructed in the refugee settlements hosting South Sudanese refugees.
- 12 collection points and transit facilities and seven reception centres maintained operational in 2017.

Remaining Gaps

- The need for semi-permanent shelter remained unaddressed for nearly two thirds of vulnerable refugees in need of shelter assistance.
- No new recreation facilities constructed in 2017.
- Very limited investments to build teachers accommodation.
- Use of spot gravelling caused the roads to get damaged during the rainy season.

% of new refugee households provided with NFIs

100%

% of refugees with specific needs provided with semi-permanent shelter

37%

WASH

 **70%** of water supplied through **sustainable water supply systems** by the end of 2017

1,900  **hygiene promoters engaged for community sensitization**

 **66% of refugee families** lacked access to **decent household latrines** in 2017

In 2017, partners made significant progress to shift focus from emergency water provision to more sustainable water supply systems, though funding shortfalls significantly hampered the plan of phasing out water trucking. Supply of safe drinking water was maintained at 14.3 liters per person per day, with 70 percent coming from permanent water schemes by the end of 2017. Partners have extensively promoted a household approach to WASH services, with the aim of encouraging ownership and positive behavior practices. The Ministry of Water and Environment has gradually

gained more prominence within the refugee response, with an increased coordination role at a national and field level, leveraging resources and technical capacity from various stakeholders.

Key Achievements

- Supply of water through water trucking reduced from 60 percent in January 2017 to 30 percent by the end 2017.
- Household latrine coverage increased from below 10 percent in January 2017 to 34 percent by the end of 2017.
- 70,000 household latrines and 3,800 communal latrines constructed.
- 3,700 handwashing facilities installed.
- 1,900 hygiene promoters engaged for awareness-raising campaigns.

Remaining Gaps

- 14 additional motorised water supply schemes need to be constructed and 73 others completed to phase out water trucking.
- 102,000 additional family latrines needed to reach 100 percent household coverage.
- 798 additional institutional latrines needed in schools, health clinic and markets.
- 582 additional hygiene promoters needed to meet the ratio of one hygiene promoter every 500 persons.
- 1,898 additional handwashing stations needed at communal and institutional latrines.

% of refugee households with access to decent latrines



34%

RRP PARTNERS IN UGANDA IN 2017

- AAR - Association for Aid and Relief Japan
- ACF - Action Against Hunger
- ARC - American Refugee Committee
- Care Uganda
- Caritas
- DCA - Danish Church Aid
- DRC - Danish Refugee Council
- FAO - Food and Agriculture Organisation
- FCA - Finn Church Aid
- FH - Food for the Hungry
- IAS - International Aid Services
- Intersos
- IOM - International Organisation for Migration
- IRC - International Rescue Committee
- LWF - Lutheran World Federation
- MTI - Medical Teams International
- NRC - Norwegian Refugee Council
- OXFAM
- PI - Plan International
- SCI - Save the Children International
- SP - Samaritan's Purse
- TPO - Transcultural Psychosocial Organization
- TTR - Tutapona Trauma Rehabilitation
- UN WOMEN
- UNDP - United Nations Development Programme
- UNFPA - United Nations Population Fund
- UNHCR - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- UNICEF - United Nations Children's Fund
- WCC - War Child Canada
- WCH - War Child Holland
- WFP - World Food Programme
- WHH - Welthungerhilfe
- WHO - World Health Organisation
- WMU - Water Mission Uganda
- WTI - Windle Trust International
- WVI - World Vision International
- ZOA

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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South Sudan Situation Data Portal: data.unhcr.org/southsudan

SOUTH SUDAN REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN

Uganda: 2017 Key Response Figures

1 January - 31 December 2017

PROTECTION

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EDUCATION

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FOOD

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HEALTH AND NUTRITION

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Crude Mortality Rate: 0.1/1,000/month (within the acceptable standard)

50,434 mothers & children reached with the **Mother-and-Child Health & Nutrition Programme**

LIVELIHOODS AND ENVIRONMENT

71% of refugee households had **access to arable land** in 2017

In 2017, **only 50%** of youth were engaged in **skills development training**

Trees planted in northern Uganda: **1,231,106**

SHELTER AND NFIs

354,556 newly arrived South Sudanese refugees received non-food items in 2017

1,226km of in-settlement & access roads constructed, repaired or rehabilitated in 2017

Only **37%** of South Sudanese refugees with specific needs received **semi-permanent shelter** in 2017

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

70% of water supplied through **sustainable water supply systems** by the end of 2017

1,900 hygiene promoters engaged for community sensitization

66% of refugee families lacked access to **decent household latrines** in 2017