

# Uganda: 2018 Mid Year Report SOUTH SUDAN REGIONAL RRP

January - June 2018



## 1,065,094

SOUTH SUDANESE  
REFUGEES HOSTED IN  
UGANDA (30 JUNE 2018)

## US\$ 577 M

REQUIRED IN UGANDA IN  
2018 (REVISED)

## 16%

FUNDING RECEIVED  
(17 JULY 2018)

## 45

RRP PARTNERS IN  
UGANDA  
IN 2018

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

In the first half of 2018, 30,954 South Sudanese refugees sought safety in Uganda, citing fears of sexual and physical violence, political uncertainty, forced recruitment of children, looting compounded by food insecurity as reasons for fleeing their country of origin. The refugee influx remained lower than anticipated in the 2018 Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP), prompting partners to revise downwards the planning figure for the number of new refugees expected to arrive from South Sudan by year-end 2018, from 300,000 to 100,000. With the situation in South Sudan remaining highly unpredictable, an interagency contingency plan was also developed to respond to a worst-case scenario.

By the end of June 2018, Uganda hosted 1,065,094 refugees from South Sudan, of which 63 percent were children. The vast majority live in refugee settlements in northern Uganda, mainly in Yumbe, Arua, Adjumani, Moyo and Lamwo districts, with smaller numbers in Hoima district and urban Kampala.

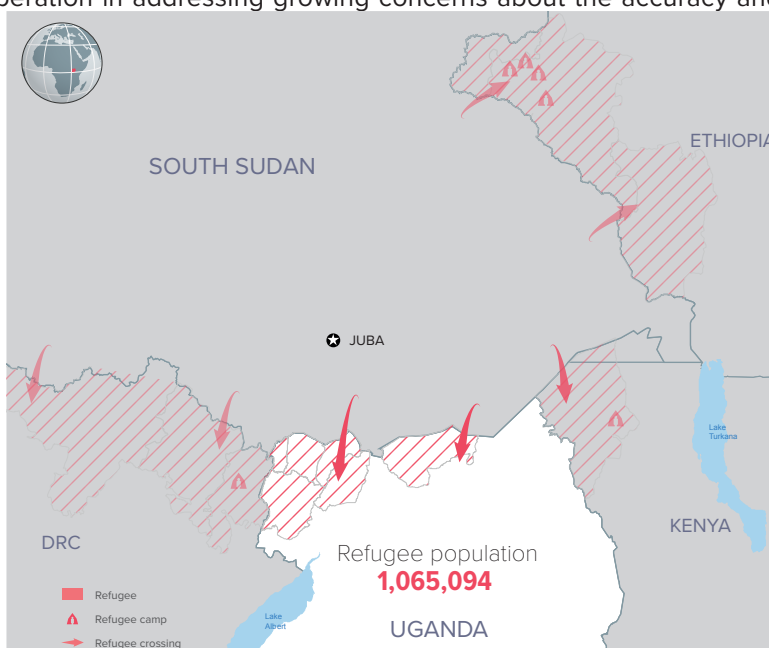
The Government of Uganda continued to grant South Sudanese refugee status on a prima facie basis. In line with the 2006 Refugee Act, refugees enjoy freedom of movement, the right to work and establish businesses, the right to documentation and equal access to national services.

Partners continued to provide all new arrivals with reception assistance at entry points and collection centres as well as relocation to settlements. The Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) continued to undertake registration and documentation of refugees.

In the settlements, refugees continued to receive monthly food rations, household items and access to health care, education, water and sanitation, and protection services. New arrivals were allocated a plot of land for housing and farming – donated by host communities.

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 used for fundraising, programming and of assistance. In response, the government and UNHCR launched a verification of all refugees in Uganda in March 2018, using biometric systems. While verification will continue until the end of the year, more than 515,000 refugees were verified between March and the end of June 2018, including some 360,000 South Sudanese.

Building on existing complaint mechanisms, in the first six months of 2018 partners laid the foundations for an inter-agency centralised refugee complaint, feedback and resolution mechanism to enhance accountability to affected populations – which will be launched in the second half of 2018.




With only 16 percent of earmarked funding received by the end of June 2018, RRRP partners continued to face enormous challenges in stabilising existing programme and often meeting the minimum standards of service provision, let alone investing in long-term and more sustainable interventions. Notably, severe underfunding compromised the quality of child protection, education and water and sanitation services and limited the capacity to fully support prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), environmental protection, support resilience of host communities, and permanent community infrastructure.

In line with the Grand Bargain's commitment to improve joint and impartial needs assessments, an inter-agency multi-sector needs assessment of refugee and host communities began in April 2018 in 12 refugee-hosting districts and 30 refugee settlements. A joint analysis taskforce will review the findings with a view to inform the 2019/2020 RRP.

## Protection

**18,220**   
South Sudanese  
refugee children with specific  
needs received **individual  
case management**

 **5,418**  
**unaccompanied and  
separated** children from  
South Sudan were placed  
in alternative care by June 2018

Child to caseworker ratio: **150:1**  
above the standard of **25:1**



South Sudanese asylum seekers continued to be granted refugee status on a prima facie basis. Protection monitoring along the South Sudan-Uganda borders ensured that 30,954 new refugee arrivals in 2018 were provided with reception assistance and transferred to settlements.

In order to improve the quality and reliability of refugee data, UNHCR and the Government signed a memorandum of understanding in mid-2018, enabling the use of enhanced biometric systems such as Biometric Identity Management System (BIMS) and ProGres to register refugees. This will also contribute to effective individual case management and delivery of protection services and humanitarian aid (including targeted assistance for persons with specific needs) and the pursuit of durable solutions.

By the end of June 2018, verification had been completed in three of 15 settlements hosting South Sudanese refugees, namely Kiryandongo, Imvepi and Palabek. While the results showed a marginal divergence from the number of registered refugees in Kiryandongo and Palabek, the number of verified refugees in Imvepi represented a 58 percent decrease compared to the number of registered refugees (53,856 verified versus 127,325 registered). This result may be an isolated situation but provides an indication that refugee numbers may be significantly reduced in some of the settlements, with country-wide verification results due by the end of 2018. Meanwhile, the biometric registration backlog for South Sudanese refugees reduced from 51,772 in December 2017 to 15,457 in June 2018.


With children representing 63 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. 95 percent of children with specific needs received psychosocial support through 112 child friendly spaces.

Through protection desks, information support centres, and women's centres, partners identified 1,733 SGBV survivors between January and June 2018, with most incidents occurring in the country of origin. Physical assault was the most reported incident, followed by rape and emotional abuse. All survivors were provided with psychosocial, legal and medical assistance, in addition to security and safe shelter, as needed.

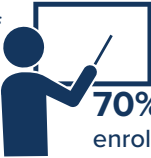
In June, the National Refugee Protection Working Group was launched in Kampala with a view to strengthening coordination and delivery of protection services across the country.

Limited funding and the constant need to reprioritise activities continued to undermine the ability of partners to adequately support prevention and response to SGBV as well as the quality of child protection services. Refugees continued to face significant challenges in accessing justice, especially in remote areas where the presence of the judiciary and police is limited or non-existent. In most settlements, the number of police officers remained inadequate to respond to the needs of an increasing population, especially female officers – which represents a barrier for female refugees to come forward and report SGBV incidents. Furthermore, limited investments could be made to support the police with means of transportation and communications.

## Education

**61%** primary school aged refugee children enrolled in primary education 

**497 classrooms** constructed in settlements hosting South Sudanese refugees in 2018 

**Only 12%** of secondary school aged children were enrolled in secondary education  **70%** of those enrolled are male

In Uganda, refugee children have access to pre-primary, universal primary and secondary education, vocational skills and tertiary institutions.

In March 2018, the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) presented its Education Response Plan (2018-2021) with the aim to identify and respond to additional education needs of refugee and host communities in refugee-hosting districts. Education partners and MoES are currently reviewing this plan, due for release in the second half of 2018.

In the first six months of 2018 partners supported 160 schools by providing salary for 2,163 teachers, constructing 497 classrooms and supplying scholastic materials. However, the ongoing influx of refugees continued to overstretch both the soft and hard educational infrastructure in refugee-hosting districts, creating huge gaps in terms of teachers, classrooms, WASH facilities, furniture, learning materials, and accelerated education programmes. In most schools across the refugee settlements in northern Uganda, the number of classrooms is insufficient to meet the government standard of one classroom per 53 children. The number of teachers also remains inadequate to ensure quality education, with more than 80 students per teacher (below the government standard of 53 students per teacher).

## Food

**868,384** South Sudanese refugees received monthly **in-kind food assistance** in the first half of 2018



**125,826** South Sudanese refugees received monthly **cash-based food assistance** in the first half of 2018



**Vast majority** of South Sudanese refugees in Uganda are unable to produce their own food

The vast majority of South Sudanese refugees continued to remain heavily dependent on food and nutrition assistance, with few being able to provide for themselves using the land given by the Ugandan government or host communities due to lack of seeds, unfertile land and lack of smart farming technologies. In the first half of 2018, 994,210 refugees received food assistance through in-kind distributions and cash transfers.

In conjunction with the verification exercise, new food assistance collection procedures were developed in 2018 to improve accountability and service delivery to refugees, using newly gathered refugee biometric biodata to carry out food distributions to individual households. Under these new procedures – already in effect in Imvepi and Palabek settlements - all verified refugees, including new arrivals, receive a 100 percent ration regardless of their length of stay in the settlement.

Funding shortfalls expected in the second half of 2018 are likely to cause pipeline breaks between September and December 2018, affecting both in-kind distributions and cash transfers. Without further resources, WFP (the only RRP partner for food assistance) may be forced to implement ration cuts in all refugee settlements hosting South Sudanese refugees.

## Health & Nutrition

### 56,961

refugees reached with Mother and Child Nutrition Programmes in the first half of 2018



**93%** of South Sudanese refugees women delivered with the **assistance of qualified health personnel** in 2018

**Anaemia** among South Sudanese children under 5 was **over 47%** in the first half of 2018



Partners continued to support the national health care system as well as health facilities and referral services in and around refugee settlements hosting South Sudanese refugees, helping maintain the crude mortality rate and under five mortality rate at 0.1 death every 1,000 people per month – below the non-emergency standard of 1 death 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 729,180 consultations between January and June 2018 – of which 5.8 percent (41,922) benefitted the host community.

In the context of cholera, meningitis and hemorrhagic fever outbreaks in South Sudan in the first semester of 2018, partners deployed resources to strengthen traditional and community-based disease surveillance systems. Furthermore, all new arrivals received a screening package, including vaccination, nutrition assessment, deworming, vitamin A administration and screening for chronic diseases. During the reporting period, no outbreak of notifiable diseases was reported among South Sudanese refugees in Uganda.

Partners continued to deliver comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment services, with some 2,183 refugees with HIV/AIDS receiving antiretroviral therapy between January and June 2018.

The prevalence of Acute Global Malnutrition (GAM) remained slightly above acceptable standard of 10 percent in settlements hosting South Sudanese refugees, with Palabek settlement recording the highest rate (12.4 percent). By the end of June 2018, anemia among children aged 6-59 months was reported as “high” at 47.7 percent and “medium” at 32.7 percent among non-pregnant women aged 15-49 years, according to WHO classification.

In the first semester of 2018, efforts continued to increase integration of humanitarian health services into the government health care system. The Ministry of Health led the development of the Uganda National Integrated Health Response Plan for Refugees and Host Communities (2018-2020), due for publication in the second half of 2018. This plan seeks to bridge the humanitarian and development programming, based on the Uganda Health Sector’s medium term strategic directions.

## Livelihoods & Environment



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

**6,692** South Sudanese refugees received start-up capital grants for business development



**58%** of South Sudanese refugees **lacked access to livelihood assistance** in the first half of 2018

During the reporting period, partners continued to provide emergency livelihoods to new refugee arrivals whilst seeking to transition to recovery livelihoods interventions. Overall, livelihood interventions remain largely focused on agricultural production, with limited opportunities for business development, micro-credit and vocational skills training. In the first half of 2018, livelihood assistance reached only 42 percent of South Sudanese refugees, including support in agricultural and livestock production, cash grants and access to formal financial services and training.

Several studies were commissioned or undertaken in the first semester of 2018 to gather socio-economic data of refugees and help develop longer-term strategies for refugee self-reliance.

An assessment on affordable and accessible remittances for forcibly displaced persons and host communities in Uganda, by UNCD, UNHCR and BPA (published in June 2018), found that the provision of digital remittance services to refugees has a potential provided that humanitarian and development partners work together to remove the barriers refugees face in accessing remittances. This includes distance to money transfer operator outlets, problem with legal identification and business case misconceptions about refugees.

In April 2018, Grameen Credit Agricole Foundation in partnership with UNHCR and the Swedish Development Agency carried out an assessment of financial needs of refugees in Uganda and the business case for serving them. The study, which is scheduled for publication in the second half of 2018, will help financial sector providers design credit products that can support business activities and respond to consumption needs, in addition to providing essential information about the demand for savings accounts and payments services.

Due to underfunding, environmental protection interventions have been largely de-prioritised, including environmental sensitisation, access to energy-efficient stoves, tree planting, forest resource management and water catchment restoration. At least 20 replacement trees per refugee are needed every year to contribute afforestation and reforestation.

## Shelter & NFIs

**100%** of new South Sudanese arrivals received emergency shelter kits in the first half of 2018



**100%** of new South Sudanese refugee arrivals received non-food items



**97%** of South Sudanese refugees lacked semi-permanent shelter in the first half of 2018


In the first six months of 2018, some 30,954 new arrivals were provided with communal temporary shelter in transit and reception centres and, after relocation to settlements, given a plot of land for housing and cultivation by the government of Uganda and host communities, in addition to household items and emergency shelter kits. This assistance included sleeping mats, blankets, kitchen sets, water cans, plastic sheets, wooden poles and construction tools. However, only 66 percent of the entire refugee population had access to adequate NFIs as of June 2018.

Palorinya settlement in Moyo district, Rhino settlement (Omugo extension) in Arua district and Palabek in Lamwo district continued to receive new refugee arrivals from South Sudan, with nearly 6,200 plots cleared and allocated between January and June 2018. Partners opened some 3.2 kilometers of roads in Rhino, in addition to upgrading, rehabilitating and maintaining another 10.4 kilometers of roads in Rhino and Imvepi settlements, improving access and delivery of assistance to refugees. A total of 15 kilometers of existing roads underwent routine maintenance work in Adjumani settlements, along with 5.7 kilometers of gravelling to key roads.

While existing settlements need to be re-organised to maximise efficient use of the land available, to cluster shelter plots in villages, to increase plantation zones and to incorporate boundary planting, resources remained limited for longer-term settlement planning. Underfunding also continued to compromise the plan to transition from temporary to semi-permanent and permanent structures, including schools, household shelters and recreational facilities.




## WASH



**86%**  
of water supplied  
through **sustainable  
water supply systems**  
by 30 June 2018

**1,347**   
**hygiene promoters**  
engaged for community  
sensitisation



**60% of  
refugee  
families**  
lacked access to  
**household latrines** in 2018

In the first months of 2018, partners continued to make significant progress to shift from emergency water provision to more sustainable water supply systems, though funding shortfalls significantly hampered Uganda Operation's ultimate plan of phasing out water trucking. Supply of safe drinking water was maintained at 15.5 liters per person per day, with 14 percent provided through water trucking by the end of June 2018 – down from 29 percent in December 2017. During the reporting period, 24 motorised boreholes were completed, giving a total of 99 motorised boreholes across refugee settlements hosting South Sudanese refugees.

Partners continued to promote a household approach to WASH services, with the aim of encouraging ownership and positive behaviour practices.

The Ministry of Water and Environment (MoWE) has assumed a more prominent role and responsibility within the refugee response, with an increased coordination role at a national and field level, leveraging resources and technical capacity from various stakeholders. An integrated Uganda Water Sector Plan is being developed under the leadership of MoWE to identify and address the water needs of refugee and host-communities in refugee-hosting areas.

## CRRF

The Government of Uganda formally launched the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) in March 2017, embracing existing initiatives, mechanisms and policies seeking to address the needs of refugee and host communities in Uganda. The long-term goal is sustainability of Uganda's refugee settlement response model and socio-economic inclusion of refugees into national and local development plans.

The CRRF seeks to advance Uganda's Settlement Transformative Agenda (STA), embedded into the National Development Plan II (2016-2021), including through the implementation of the humanitarian refugee response (emergencies and protracted situations) and development-oriented interventions like the Refugee and Host Populations Framework (ReHoPE), under UNDAF.

A multi-stakeholder CRRF Steering Group, co-chaired by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and the Ministry of Local Government (MoLG), supports the practical application of CRFF, with technical support from the CRRF Secretariat. The CRRF Steering Group consists of 32 members from Line Ministries, Government Departments and Agencies, Local Governments, development and humanitarian donors, representatives of UN Agencies, national and international NGOs, the private sector and international financial institutions.

In January 2018, the CRRF Steering Group adopted a roadmap, with milestones and priority interventions for refugee stakeholders between 2018 and 2020 bridging the gap between NDP II and NDP III. Creating entry points for non-traditional refugee responders in Uganda, the roadmap highlights the following priority focus areas: adaptation and standardisation of refugee response and protection based on lessons learned; access to quality education for refugee and host communities; water delivery and infrastructure; environment and energy; health care; and livelihoods, resilience and self-reliance.

For the first time in Uganda's history, national and local development plans will include refugee issues. In March 2018, the Ministry of Education introduced its Education Response Plan (2018-2021) –currently under review– with the aim to respond to the additional strains placed on the educational system in refugee hosting districts. Following this lead, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Water and Environment have also begun developing integrated response plans, due for release in the second half of 2018 and early 2019 respectively.

To optimise coordination, the Inter-Agency Coordination Group (IACG) evolved into the Comprehensive Refugee Coordination Forum, in order to better align refugee responses with longer term government planning and management of social service delivery. Moving forward, in addition to OPM Department of Refugees and UNHCR, MoLG will co-chair this forum jointly at both central and district level

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

**South Sudan Data Portal** - <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/southsudan>

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## RRP PARTNERS\*

- Action African Help
- Action Against Hunger
- Adventist Development and Relief Agency
- Africa Development Corps
- Africa Humanitarian Action
- African Initiatives for Relief and Development
- African Medical and Research Foundation
- Agency for Accelerated Regional Development
- Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development
- American Refugee Committee
- Association for Aid and Relief Japan
- Association of Volunteers in International Services
- Care International
- Caritas
- Catholic Relief Service
- Community Empowerment for Rural Development
- Concern World Wide
- Cooperazione e Sviluppo
- DanChurchAid
- Danish Refugee Council
- Finn Church Aid
- Finnish Refugee Council
- Food and Agriculture Organisation
- Food for the Hungry
- Give Directly
- Global Humanitarian and Development Foundation
- Handicap International
- HelpAge International
- Here is Life
- International Aid Services
- International Federation of the Red Cross
- International Organisation for Migration
- International Rescue Committee
- INTERSOS
- IsraAid Uganda
- Jesuit Refugee Service
- Lutheran World Federation
- Malteser International
- Médecins Sans Frontières
- Medical Teams International
- Norwegian Refugee Council
- Obadiah Brothers Canada
- Oxfam
- Peace Wind Japan
- Peter C. Alderman Foundation
- Plan International Uganda
- Real Medicine Foundation
- Right to Play
- Rural Initiative for Community Empowerment
- Samaritan's Purse
- Save the Children
- Touch Africa
- Transcultural Psychosocial Organization
- Trauma Counselling
- Ugandan Red Cross Society
- Ugandan Refugee and Disaster Management Council
- UN Women
- United Nations Children's Fund
- United Nations Development Programme
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- United Nations Population Fund
- Volunteer Efforts for Development Concerns
- War Child Canada
- War Child Holland
- Water Mission Uganda
- Welthungerhilfe
- Windle Trust Uganda
- World Food Programme
- World Health Organisation
- World Vision International
- ZOA Uganda