Palabek is the newest refugee settlement established in Uganda in April 2017. Located in Lamwo district in the northern part of the country, the settlement hosts almost 38,000 South Sudanese refugees. Infrastructure is still being developed because the settlement is new. Refugees seem to be integrating well with the host community, as many of them are from the same ethnic group.

Gaps & Challenges³

Refugees reported challenges in accessing adequate health services due to stock outs of medication, inadequate facilities, poor referral systems due to insufficient ambulance services. Refugees also reported lack of a district referral hospital which leads to a gap in emergency response services.

Refugees highlighted challenges in the food distribution process particularly regarding the insufficient quantity provided that does not last refugees for a full month and often runs out after two weeks. Moreover, the distribution is continuously untimely and the quality of the food distributed is reportedly poor where it is often expired. Refugees are provided with whole maize rather than ground, forcing them to sell part of their food rations to afford paying for the grinding of their maize. The lack of access to land for agricultural purposes further compromises food security in the settlement.

Access to quality education is limited in and around the settlement. There are insufficient schools accessible leading to severe congestions in the classrooms and low teacher per student ratios. Moreover, parents highlighted, language barriers have affected students’ abilities to learn. Schools reported inadequate facilities further, such as libraries and laboratories, combined with a lack of school materials, deteriorating the learning environment. Additionally, the lack of vocational institutions has left the youth idle due to the limited opportunities available following primary school.

Refugees face particular difficulties in accessing a sustainable income and thus building their resilience. The lack of vocational trainings combined with the lack of access to capital has prevented refugees from starting small scale businesses. Refugees are also unable to overcome this challenge due to the lack of land accessible for agricultural purposes and the limited provision of seeds, which further limits their opportunities to earn a living.

There are insufficient potable water sources in the settlement with few boreholes leading to congestion and long waiting lines at the collection points. This has led to refugees and nationals fetching water from streams for their home consumption, which means they use potentially unsafe and unclean water. Moreover, refugees highlighted there is poor latrine coverage in the settlement particularly for persons with special needs (PSNs) who struggle to build the latrines themselves.

Strengths & Opportunities

The presence of refugees in the district has led to the construction and improvement of infrastructure in the area. Roads have been improved and an increasing attention has been dedicated to the construction of schools and water facilities.

There has been a rise in the number of humanitarian actors and agencies in the district as a response to the influx of refugees. This has led to an increase in the services available to both refugees and the host community. Furthermore, it has strengthened the District Disaster Management Coordination committees, which has ensured a more coordinated response.

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³ Refugee statistics source: Refugee Information Management System (RIMS) - Office of the Prime Minister
1. Demographic data used is valid as of June 2018
2. Indicator standards to measure gaps were determined by global humanitarian standards, Ugandan national standards, or sector experts for each settlement. Data was from collected from 01 June to 25 July, 2018.
3. The gaps and challenges were collected through Focus Group Discussions with both refugees and host communities separately undertaken on 26 February 2018 with the host community and on 29 May 2018 with the refugees.
Protection

1,536 new arrivals reported in the past three months are yet to be biometrically registered in the RIMS
502 new arrivals reported in the past three months have been biometrically registered in the RIMS
1,180 refugees are yet to be registered in the RIMS
36,805 total refugees are registered in the RIMS

Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)

100% of SGBV survivors received multi-sectoral support in the past three months
0% of SGBV survivors not receiving multi-sectoral support in the past three months

Psychosocial

3,065 reproductive-age women provided with dignity kits or sanitary materials
4,139 reproductive-age women not provided with dignity kits or sanitary materials
14 psychosocial awareness activities conducted in the past three months
115 refugees receiving psychosocial support
311 children registered to access psychosocial support

Persons with specific needs (PSNs)

7,811 PSNs have received services for their specific needs
0 PSNs need to receive services for their specific needs

Child protection

6% of child PSNs need to be provided with individual case management
94% of child PSNs have been provided with individual case management
0% of unaccompanied or separated children have not been provided with interim or long term care
100% of unaccompanied or separated children have been provided with interim or long term care
100% of cases in the past three months of child abuse or exploitation have not received age and gender services

Water, sanitation and hygiene

0 additional litres per person per day (l/p/d) of water needed
21 average l/p/d provided
600 kilograms of soap distributed in 2017
5 partners:

5 additional motorized boreholes operational
218 active hygiene promoters or village health teams (VHTs)
3,458 additional household latrines needed
4,090 household latrines completed

Education

12,596 refugees are attending school in or around the settlement, with gross enrolment rates:

Pre-primary

2,762 refugees aged 3-5
2,428 refugees enrolled

Primary

5,573 refugees aged 6-13
9,342 refugees enrolled

Secondary

2,974 refugees aged 14-17
826 refugees enrolled

ALPs

1,773 refugees aged 18-60 and above
12,556 refugees enrolled

Gross enrolment rates

334 teachers are working in schools refugees attend, but more are needed to reach teacher-student ratio standards:

0 additional teachers needed for number of students enrolled
182 teachers

0 additional teachers needed for number of students enrolled
136 teachers

0 additional teachers needed for number of students enrolled
16 teachers

1. The gap of pre-primary enrolment could not be calculated here as children above the age of 5 are also enrolled in pre-primary education.
2. The gap of primary enrolment could not be calculated here as children above the age of 13 are also enrolled in primary education.
3. The gap of secondary enrolment could not be calculated here as children above the age of 17 are also enrolled in secondary education.

For more information on this fact sheet please contact:
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https://ugandarefugees.org

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REACH Informing more effective humanitarian action
## Food assistance

- **528** metric tonnes of food were distributed during the latest distribution in the settlement.
- **2,836** eligible refugees have not received 100% in-kind or Cash Based Intervention (CBI) food assistance in the latest distribution.
- **34,149** eligible refugees have received 100% in-kind or CBI food assistance in the latest distribution.
- **0** cash for food was distributed during the latest distribution for the settlement.

## Livelihoods and environment

- **6,757** households still need to receive improved cooking stoves and efficient energy for cooking.
- **0** households have received improved cooking stoves and efficient energy for cooking.
- **15,720** cases of livelihoods support through: 
  - **3,252** Cash/vouchers for livelihood provisioning
  - **4,677** Villages savings and loan associations
  - **0** Savings and cooperative societies
  - **4,539** Production kits or inputs for agricultural activities
  - **3,252** Productive assets or cash grants to start or improve a business
- **3,252** refugees have access to self-employment or facilitated businesses.
- **14,407** refugees and host community members trained on agricultural practices.
- **184** refugees received vocational training in the past three months.

## Health and nutrition

- **0%** of refugees with HIV are not receiving ART.
- **100%** of refugees with HIV are receiving ART.
- **11%** of refugees under the age of 18 with HIV are not receiving ART.
- **89%** of refugees under the age of 18 with HIV are receiving ART.
- **242** women delivered with skilled healthcare staff in the past three months.
- **0%** of children identified with severe acute malnutrition in the past three months have not been admitted into treatment.
- **100%** of children identified with severe acute malnutrition in the past three months were admitted into treatment.

## Shelter, site, and non-food items (NFIs)

- **928** arrivals in the past three months provided with household NFI kits.
- **126** arrivals in the past three months did not receive household NFI kits.
- **9,734** households in total have been provided with NFI kits.
- **153** households in total have not been provided with NFI kits.
- **928** arrivals in the past three months received shelter materials and toolkit/cash.
- **126** arrivals in the past three months have not received shelter materials and toolkit/cash.
- **383** PSN shelters have been constructed.
- **50** additional PSN shelters needed.

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4. Antiretroviral Therapy (ART)
5. Food Security and Nutrition Assessment (FSNA); October 2017, UNHCR