

SOUTH SUDAN

Regional Refugee Response Plan

2021 Mid Year Report



REGIONAL SITUATION OVERVIEW

2021 marks the 10th anniversary of the independence of South Sudan, and the eighth year of conflict within the country. This protracted situation remains the largest refugee crisis in Africa with close to 2.3 million South Sudanese refugees living in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda. It continues to be characterized as a children's crisis with children constituting over 63 percent of the refugee population. The sheer scale of forced displacement is putting immense pressure on asylum countries and greater responsibility-sharing in a spirit of solidarity is needed. The 2021 South Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP) included an appeal for almost USD 1.2 billion for 93 partners to meet the critical needs of 2,284,000 South Sudanese refugees in these five countries.

Despite the signature of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) by the warring parties in September 2018 and the formation of the Transitional Government of National Unity in February 2020, conditions have not yet been conducive for promoting or facilitating voluntary repatriation in safety and dignity to South Sudan due to ongoing pockets of armed conflict and human rights violations.

The protracted political crisis, outbreaks of sub-national intercommunal violence and natural disasters, such as severe flooding, have left 1.7 million South Sudanese internally displaced across all 78 counties. The situation has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and limitations on humanitarian access. Currently, South Sudan is facing its highest levels of food insecurity since its independence in 2011, with over 8.3 million people needing assistance, including some 7 million being pushed toward famine conditions.

In recognition of the longer-term peacebuilding, resilience and early recovery needs of South Sudanese and Sudanese refugees, IDPs and returnees, South Sudan and Sudan launched a Solutions Initiative under the IGAD Support Platform with the support of UNHCR at the end of 2020. This initiative complemented the RRRP by seeking to mobilize investment in longer term development needs to make returns and other solutions sustainable.

2021 RESPONSE IN NUMBERS

2.26 M

SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEES
AS OF 30 JUNE 2021



USD 235.3M

FUNDING RECEIVED BY SEPT 2021,
REPRESENTING 19.6% OF REQUIREMENTS

59,209

NEW SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEE
ARRIVALS IN 2021

93

UN, INTERNATIONAL NGO AND
NATIONAL NGO PARTNERS INVOLVED

Photo Caption:

South Sudanese refugees in Abu Jabra in East Darfur, Sudan. © UNHCR/Saima Hassan

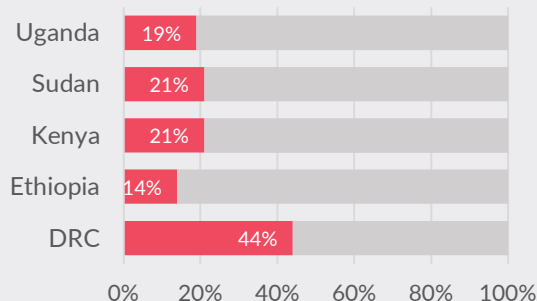
USD 235.3M

FUNDING RECEIVED FROM

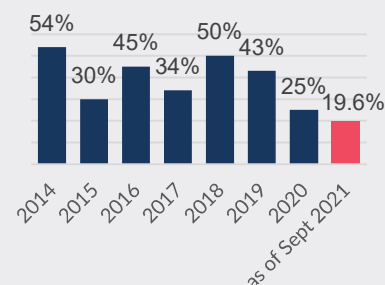
USD 1.2B

FUNDING REQUESTED IN 2021

Funding level by response country



Annual funding status



REGIONAL SITUATION OVERVIEW (CONTINUED)

The increasingly complex operational context due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the outbreak of violence in the DRC and in Ethiopia, the difficult security and economic situation in Sudan (379% inflation rate as of 30 June 2021), as well as the announced intention of the Kenyan Government to close refugee camps in Kenya, posed new challenges for the protection of South Sudanese refugees throughout the region.

Despite soaring needs, the South Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan continues to be among the most critically underfunded refugee situations globally in 2021, having received only 19.6 per cent of the resources required (as of 31 August 2021). In 2021, funds continued to be prioritized activities related to the COVID-19 pandemic and new refugee arrivals in many of the asylum countries. RRP partners' response to the socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic included tailored health services, cash-based assistance, strengthening of livelihoods, protection services, as well as community mobilization and gender-based violence prevention and response activities.

However, due to resource constraints, RRP partners continued to face enormous challenges in stabilizing existing programmes and meeting the minimum standards of service provision, let alone investing in long-term and more sustainable interventions. This led to acute gaps in other refugee response efforts, compromising the quality of child protection and the capacity to fully provide mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and GBV prevention and response and resulting in deficient investment in WASH infrastructure and insufficient livelihoods activities. The low funding for Environment and Energy Activities had serious implications on the ability to address the climate vulnerability of refugee and host communities, exposing women and children to GBV risks during firewood collection, reducing food and nutrition security and depleting sources of cooking fuel and poles for shelter. The situation was compounded by severe cuts to food rations in almost all host countries. Over 70 per cent of self-organized refugee returnees cited drastic food ration cuts in countries of asylum among the reasons that prompted their return to their country, often ending up in IDP sites or experiencing further instances of forced displacement across borders.

Notwithstanding these challenges, RRP partners continued to provide life-saving assistance to South Sudanese refugees and host communities while promoting an inclusive protection and solutions approach by advocating for refugee integration into national systems, such as education, health, environment, livelihoods, child protection and birth registration. Despite the COVID-19 related challenges, the DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda developed refugee responses in line with the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) articulating prioritized multi-stakeholder responses.

For example, in follow-up to its GRF pledges on local integration, the Government of Ethiopia initiated the identification and issuance of resident permits to 132 South Sudanese refugees in the Benishangul-Gumuz Region. RRP partners in Sudan made significant efforts to include refugees in livelihood initiatives to increase their self-reliance and provide for their most basic needs.

In Uganda, efforts continued to implement progressive refugee policies and support refugee inclusion, resilience and self-reliance of refugees and host communities, and expand solutions. Refugees are integrated in Uganda's National Development Plan III. At sectoral level, comprehensive sector response plans were implemented under the leadership of Government Ministries for education, health, water and environment. The Government also provided land for housing and cultivation for South Sudanese refugees

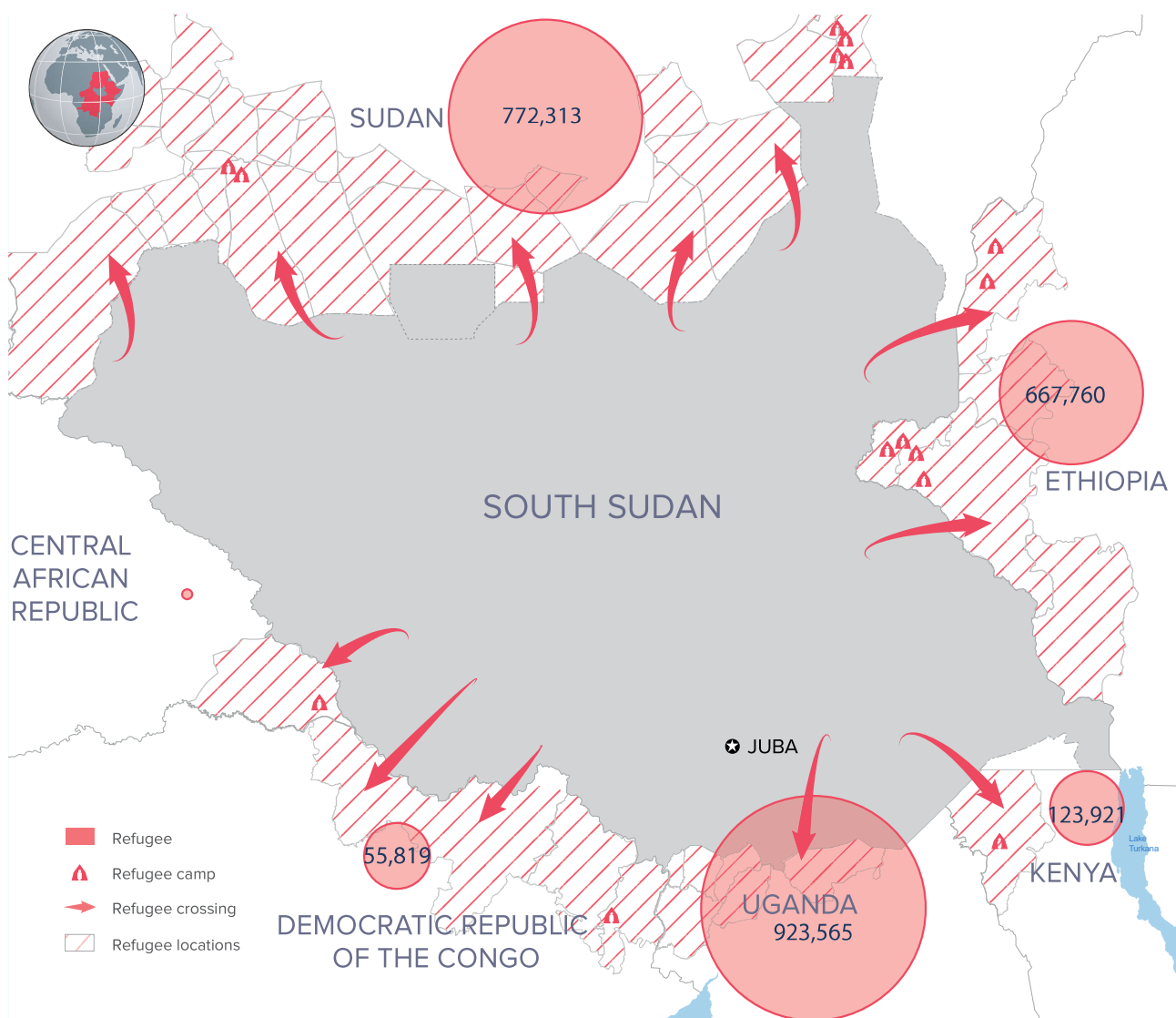
in the settlements. The sectoral response plan for jobs and livelihood was launched in the first half of 2021. RRP partners are also supporting the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development to finalize the Sustainable Energy Response Plan (SERP).

SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEE POPULATION TRENDS

In the first half of 2021, despite COVID-19 restrictions imposed by asylum states at border entry points, a total of 61,128 newly arrived South Sudanese refugees were registered in the asylum countries.

DRC: As of 30 June 2021, a total of 55,819 refugees were staying in the DRC, out of whom 35,513 were living in refugee settlements (7,807 in Ituri and 27,706 in Haut Uele respectively). A total of 764 South Sudanese asylum-seekers were registered as new arrivals in the first half of 2021 and 1,210 refugees were biometrically registered in UNHCR's proGres v4 database. Between January and June 2021, 482 refugees and asylum-seekers were relocated from insecure border areas to the Bele settlement (474) and the Biringi settlement (8), in the provinces of Ituri and Haut Uele as part of UNHCR's relocation efforts to ensure a safer protection environment for refugees.

Ethiopia: As of 30 June 2021, Ethiopia hosted 667,760 South Sudanese refugees. RRP partners were providing humanitarian assistance to South Sudanese refugees in three camps in the Benishangul-Gumuz Regional State and seven camps in Gambella Region. The registered South Sudanese refugee population in the Benishangul-Gumuz Region amounts to 24,008 and to 343,752 persons in Gambella as of 30 June 2021. In the first half of 2021, 4970 new South Sudanese refugees were registered: 1,411 in Sub-Office Assosa and 3,559 in Sub-Office Gambella. The number

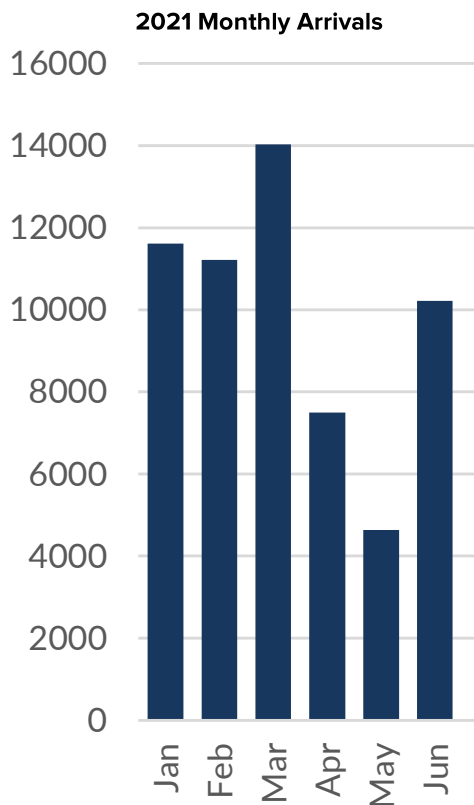


SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEE POPULATION TRENDS (CONT)

of new arrivals increased following the re-opening of the borders, which had been closed in 2020 to curb the spread of COVID-19; preventive measures are in place such as quarantining and testing of new arrivals in reception centers. New arrivals are being received at Pagak Reception Centre, where thousands of refugees remain even after two relocation exercises to the refugee camps, which are operating at full capacity in Gambella. The conflict in Benishangul-Gumuz led to the forced displacement of over 30% of the local population, thereby aggravating the humanitarian situation in this region.

Kenya: As of the end of 2020, Kenya hosted 123,921 South Sudanese refugees. In the first 6 months of 2021, 7,690 new arrivals (including 2,664 unaccompanied children) from South Sudan were registered in Kakuma and Kalobeyei. An increasing number of unaccompanied/separated children were identified among these new arrivals, including some who came to join their relatives in the camp. Even though transit facilities in Nadapal remained closed, new arrivals were able to cross the border in irregular manner and present themselves for registration in Kakuma. 74 South Sudanese refugees were submitted for resettlement and 42 South Sudanese refugees departed to their new asylum country.

Sudan: By the end of June 2021, 772,313 South Sudanese refugees were living in Sudan out of which 63% are biometrically registered by UNHCR. This includes an increase of 35,628 refugees who arrived since January 2021. 52% of the refugee population are female and 53% are children under 18. The majority of South Sudanese refugees are living



in White Nile (34%) and Khartoum (25%) with significant populations in South and East Darfur as well as in West and South Kordofan. The Government of Sudan has maintained an open border policy and continued to receive new arrivals from the neighboring countries including South Sudan. The number of arrivals up to June 2021 is the highest number since 2017 and reflects increased movements due to inter-ethnic conflicts combined with flooding, food insecurity and lack of economic opportunities in South Sudan. In response to the increased arrivals in 2021, UNHCR opened a new refugee site in Alganaa, White Nile state. While RRP partners have increased services in White Nile there are still significant challenges to cover the most basic needs, including livelihoods and energy initiatives, strengthened registration as well as the provision of health services and nutrition.

Uganda: Despite the border closures, South Sudanese refugees continued crossing to Uganda through unofficial entry points. By the end of June 2021, Uganda hosted 923,565 refugees from South Sudan. The vast majority of South Sudanese refugees lived in settlements in northern Uganda, in the districts of Yumbe (26%), Adjumani (25%), MadiOkollo (21%), Obongi (14%), Kiryandongo (8%), and Lamwo (6%), with smaller numbers in Kikuube district (0.4%), and urban Kampala (0.7%). More than 62 per cent are children.

2021 ACHIEVEMENTS AND GAPS

PROTECTION

In 2021, RRP partners continued to allocate resources to meet the urgent needs related to the pandemic. However, measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, inadequate humanitarian funding, food ration cuts coupled with limited livelihood opportunities further exacerbated inequalities and heightened protection risks for refugees. An increase in high-risk coping mechanisms among refugees and asylum seekers were reported, including child marriage and pregnancy, survival sex and theft. Incidents of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and suicides also increased since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Against this background, RRP partners increased efforts to strengthen community-based protection in the settlements through empowerment of refugees, provision of material support, tailored provision of health services, trainings and sensitization. Complaints and feedback mechanisms, child protection as well

as GBV prevention and response were also strengthened through community-based approaches and remote case management in all asylum countries.

In the **DRC**, the National Commission for Refugees registered 572 new-born children in the civil registry and issued them birth certificates. RRP partners set up a border monitoring mechanism through joint field missions with the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) and its protection monitoring partner to ensure effective access to asylum. In the context of protection monitoring in the refugee settlements, 510 protection incidents were recorded, most of which related to violations of property rights. Moreover, 67 incidences of gender-based violence (GBV) were reported among South Sudanese refugees. All GBV survivors received psychosocial support. 16 rape survivors received medical care. Training on prevention and management of GBV cases was held at the Biringi, Meri and Bele settlements with 160 participants. 154 children at risk were identified and 37 Best Interest Assessments were conducted. 108 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) were placed with host families in the settlements. RRP partners monitored and assisted all children in foster care. BID panel members (44 persons) were trained in Faradje and Aru provinces respectively.

In **Ethiopia**, in the first half of 2021, 119 unaccompanied/separated children were reunited with their parents and/or received appropriate foster care arrangement in Assosa and Gambella. RRP partners also provided 16,061 children with case management services in the refugee settlements. An inter-agency mission to Gambella in June resolved the problem regarding the issuance of birth certificates to children born out of camp. However, despite various awareness activities and campaigns, child abuse, child labor, GBV, child marriage and harmful traditional practices continue to be prevalent. Recreational centers and child-friendly spaces remained under-funded. Moreover, 212 GBV incidents were reported and all GBV survivors received medical/psycho-social support. However, critical referral services for GBV survivors such as safe houses at camp level remained unavailable. Limited livelihood opportunities and lack of alternate energy sources presented GBV risks to women and girls who often walk far distances to collect firewood and accessing grinding mill services. RRP partners continued to identify and register persons with disabilities and persons with other specific needs and provided physical rehabilitation and psychosocial support. Refugees' increased self-organized movements out of the camps, including across borders to South Sudan and to gold mining areas, also led to increased protection risks.

In **Kenya**, despite the efforts by RRP partners to expand the capacities of Kalobeyei and Kakuma reception centres, reception and quarantine facilities were congested in the first few months of 2021 due to the increased number of new South Sudanese arrivals and the countrywide disruption in supply of timber used for construction of individual refugee



84%

South Sudanese refugees **individually registered**, against an annual target of 91%



1,722

identified **SGBV survivors assisted with appropriate support**



26,973

South Sudanese refugee children with specific needs received **individual case management** (44%, against an annual target of 70%)



14,203

refugee children **enrolled in Early Childhood Development programmes** (18%, against an annual target of 27%)



286,735

refugee children **enrolled in primary school** (62%, against an annual target of 66%)



30,154

refugee children **enrolled in secondary school** (14.29%, against an annual target of 15.68%)



1.4 million

South Sudanese refugees received **food assistance** (75% of refugees targetted for food assistance, against an annual target of 83%), though only 487,882 (30%) received the full recommended ration



9,158

refugee women **delivered babies with assistance** from qualified health personnel (83%, against an annual target of 69%)



A South Sudanese refugee teacher reads off a blackboard in An Nimir Camp in East Darfur, Sudan. © UNHCR/Saima Hassan

shelters. RRP partners facilitated registration through the KASI refugee self-service application and resumed regular protection counselling in July 2021, following its suspension due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

8,557 unaccompanied and separated children were hosted in Kakuma and Kalobeyei settlements, including 2,664 new arrivals (1,537 boys and 1,127 girls). RRP partners assisted 4,963 children with specific needs. 303 children born in Kenya were issued with birth certificates by the Civil Registry in Turkana County. Child protection interventions included reception services and placements, alternate care arrangements (foster and kinship placements), support to GBV survivors, provision of CRIs, nutrition support, protection monitoring during food distribution, information and education activities, MHPSS, support to child-headed households and children with disabilities, and facilitating access to safe shelters. 137 GBV incidents with South Sudanese survivors were reported. All cases received psychosocial support and appropriate referrals were made. 18 women were enrolled into a 6-month alcohol abuse recovery program.

In **Sudan**, progress has been made in terms of individual registration and documentation of South Sudanese refugees. A strategic plan for registration and documentation for refugees and asylum-seekers was developed with the Commission for Refugees (COR) and is being implemented country-wide in order to reduce the backlog. 68% of the South Sudanese refugee population is living outside of camps with host communities. However, some of those who have settled on private lands faced disputes and/or risks of forced eviction, as owners have claimed their lands back. Whereas legal aid is provided to individual protection cases such as arbitrary arrest, detention and legal proceedings, resolution of land disputes remained challenging. Employment opportunities exist but are limited mostly to seasonal agricultural work or gold mining, and refugees often work in poor conditions with no workplace protection measures in place. There are critical gaps in child protection services due to lack of a child protection partners in some locations. Similarly, a major gap in the response was the insufficient number of trained GBV technical staff, as a result of which only 50% of survivors who reported incidents received multi-sectoral services and assistance. Significant strengthening of both GBV and child protection programming remains a critical priority.

Uganda continued to implement progressive refugee policies for asylum-seekers and refugees present in the country, including freedom of movement, right to work, establish a business, access Government services such as education and healthcare, and obtain land for housing and cultivation. Despite the border closure, thousands of South Sudanese refugees crossed into Uganda through unofficial entry points due to ongoing conflict. Against this background, RRP partners intensified efforts to strengthen community-based protection in the settlements by identifying, referring and

responding to protection concerns. Child protection as well as GBV prevention and response were also strengthened through community-based approaches, and updated guidance on face-to-face and remote case management. RRP partners assisted 16,362 refugee children with case management services, including 11,596 unaccompanied or separated children. 35,485 South Sudanese children participated in a variety of community-based activities focusing on strengthening their resilience and capacities. 50,823 South Sudanese refugees with specific needs were provided with targeted support. RRP partners addressed 31,035 complaints by South Sudanese refugees and strengthened access to justice through support of legal aid clinics, mobile court sessions and capacity building of law enforcement and judiciary. 2,879 South Sudanese refugees received legal assistance by RRP partners.

EDUCATION

The COVID-19 outbreak and subsequent school closures from March 2020 onwards in DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda did not only result in loss of learning, but also led to increased protection risks, exacerbating vulnerabilities and persistent barriers to education, with girls disproportionately affected.

In the **DRC**, RRP partners contributed to increasing access to education for South Sudanese refugees and the host community population through the provision of grants, school supplies and uniforms, and through sensitization of their parents. RRP partners supported parents with a lump sum of 100 USD for children enrolled in secondary schools. Based on the RRP partners' education strategy and in order to strengthen peaceful coexistence, 20% of children from the host community were supported, including 601 vulnerable children at the primary level and 44 children at secondary level. RRP partners also set up 27 youth clubs in three refugee settlements and supported sports and recreational activities for 601 adolescents.

In **Ethiopia**, there was an increase of about 12% in the number of children enrolled in all levels of education as a result of new arrivals. RRP partners contributed to increasing access to education through construction of additional classrooms, recruitment of teachers and conducting back-to-school campaigns. There were nevertheless serious obstacles to education, such as lack of access to safe learning environments, shortage of qualified teachers, lack of adequate WASH facilities, lack of school feeding, costs of school uniforms, as well as the challenging protection environment affected by conflicts and high mobility of the refugee population.

In **Sudan**, most schools reopened successfully in January 2021. Students who were sitting for national examinations in Grades 6, 8 and 11 were supported with examination fees. Moreover, 488 university students were supported with cash assistance and tuition fees. Following the devaluation of the Sudan currency, refugee teachers were assessed then



118,772

refugees **received productive assets, training and / or business support** in 2021 (15% of refugees 18 - 59 years, against an annual target of 18%)



12,441

refugees reported to be **employed or self-employed in the DRC, Ethiopia & Kenya** (1.6% of refugees 18 - 59 years, against an annual target of 24%)



49,618

refugee households live in **semi-permanent shelter** (18%, against an annual target of 56%)



182,272

refugee households have a **household latrine** (66%, against an annual target of 63%)



18.59L

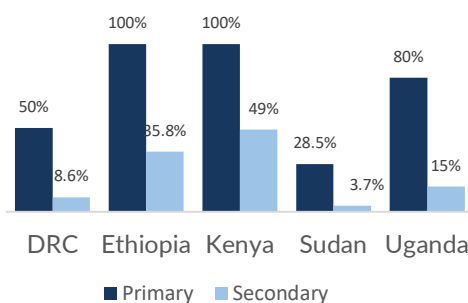
regional **average litres of water per person per day** (against an annual target and standard of 20L)



39,810

refugee households have **energy saving stoves**, (7%, against an annual target of 32%)

Enrolment in education programmes



graded as per the Ministry of Education payroll standards and incentivized accordingly. The increased inflation in the country combined with the long duration out of school due to COVID saw more students drop out. Most schools were unable to adhere to the COVID-19 protocols. Social distancing was a challenge due to congestion in schools. Many parents struggled to keep up with the contributions required to sustain the schools.

In **Kenya**, schools were reopened in January 2021 with strict enforcement of observance of COVID-19 protocols. RRP partners supported preparations for safe school re-opening, by supplying schools with face masks, handwashing stations, learning materials, soaps and new classrooms to meet physical distancing requirements. RRP partners also conducted community sensitization to return children back to school and supported enrolment of 49,647 South Sudanese across the camps and settlements in 19 pre-primary, 26 primary and 7 secondary schools. Learning materials were procured and distributed to all learners to support both school based and blended home learning. Children and adolescents were also given basic and advanced Digital Literacy training within Kakuma and Kalobeyei settlements.

In **Uganda**, between October 2020 and June 2021, there was a phased and staggered reopening of schools, allowing children to return to school within the COVID-19 prevention measures and guidelines set up by the Government of Uganda. In June 2021, the increase in COVID-19 cases led to renewed closure of schools, which resulted in loss of learning and increased protection risks, exacerbating vulnerabilities and persistent barriers to education, with girls disproportionately affected. In response, RRP partners deployed resources to support the Government COVID-19 Response Plan, which is inclusive of refugees, to ensure continuity of learning for children through home learning materials, radio lessons and digital options, including tablets. RRP partners supported remote learning through provision of radios and 632,348 scholastic materials distributed, developed by the National Curriculum Development Centre, including for refugee children in settlements hosting South Sudanese refugees. RRP partners provided distance learning to 190,283 refugee and host community children (54% boys, 45% girls). RRP partners provided mental health and psycho-social support (MHPSS) to 8102 learners and 492 parents.

Whereas the attendance of school-aged children in primary education was relatively high in most asylum countries (5,052 refugee children - 50% in the DRC; 9,932 refugee children - 100% in Ethiopia; 34,185 refugee children – 100% in Kenya; 49,517 refugee children - 28.5% in Sudan; and 188,049 refugee children - 80% in Uganda), enrolment in secondary education was significantly lower in all countries (478 secondary school refugee children – 8.6% in the DRC; 1,357 refugee children – 35.8% in Ethiopia; 8,034 secondary school refugee children – 49% in Kenya; 2,570 secondary refugee children - 3.7 % in Sudan; and 17,715 secondary refugee children - 15% in Uganda). Overall, due to overcrowded classes, inadequate WASH conditions and lack of science laboratories and libraries, the students' learning opportunities remained limited.

FOOD

The food ration cuts in DRC (62.5% of the full food rations or cash-for-food assistance for refugees), Ethiopia (16% reduction with removal of sugar), Kenya (40% ration cuts, with removal of fortified foods) and in Uganda (40% ration cuts since February 2021) limited refugees' livelihoods opportunities, resulting in increased vulnerability of refugees. Sale of food rations by refugees to meet unmet needs including the purchase of fresh food produce (fruits, vegetables and proteins of high nutritional value), and limited resources to widen the scope of beneficiaries for electronic fresh food vouchers contributed to challenges in the food security situation, and poor health indicators (malnutrition and anemia) amongst the South Sudanese refugee population.

In the **DRC**, RRP partners provided refugees with specific needs a total of 10,739 hot meals in the Bele, Biringi and Meri settlements during the first half of 2021, representing 71% of the original target. 31,167 refugees in Meri and Biringi settlements as well as in Aru received monthly cash for food assistance (approximately 10 USD per person per month) and 2,839 refugees in Bele settlement were supported with food rations. Cash for food distributions remained irregular due to resource constraints, COVID-19 travel restrictions and rebel attacks affecting the security environment in the region.

In **Ethiopia**, RRP partners distributed food rations to 360,851 refugees on a monthly basis, providing an average of 1,774 kcal/p/d (84.5 %) of the 2100 kcal/p/d needed. The reduction and delays in the provision of food rations, as well as the shortage of energy supplies affected food quantity and quality. To contribute to the household diet diversity and food consumption score, RRP partners promoted backyard gardening activities, small-scale cash-based interventions and livestock projects for refugees and host communities. Furthermore, pregnant women and vulnerable people received electronic fresh food vouchers for fruits, vegetables, and high biological protein foods. Additional resources are needed to fill the food/nutritional gaps and strengthen livelihood activities.

In **Kenya**, RRP partners ensured food distributions to refugees and asylum-seekers living in Kakuma and Kalobeyei every two months. Refugees in Kakuma received about 60% of the food ration in kind and 40% in the form of an electronic voucher, whereas residents in Kalobeyei settlement received their food ration as unrestricted cash. As a result of the 60% ration cut on the cereal's component of the food basket, food insecurity of households increased and led to a higher number of children being admitted to various nutrition programs in Kakuma and Kalobeyei. RRP partners are advocating for funding to reverse the food ration cuts to prevent increased rates of malnutrition among children. RRP partners provided three cooked meals a day for all new arrivals at two reception centers in Kakuma, as well as hot lunches in all refugee schools and vocational training centres.

In **Sudan**, RRP partners provided food assistance to 329,649 South Sudanese refugees in the first half of 2021. The pandemic continued to affect food distribution programs. RRP partners adjusted food distribution protocols, installed hand-washing facilities at the distribution sites and provided health education sessions. In order to reduce refugees' dependence on food assistance, RRP partners will strengthen nutrition-sensitive agriculture to build refugees' self-reliance.

In **Uganda**, the proportion of refugees in settlements with poor food consumption increased from 33% in December 2020 to 42% in April 2021, as a result of further ration cuts, depletion of assets/savings, shrinking livelihoods and the effects of COVID-19. 64% of settlement-based refugee households in April used medium to high levels of negative food-based coping and for example reduced the number of daily meals, which was double among refugees compared to host community households. By the end of June 2021, 862,440 South Sudan refugees received food assistance in the settlements and Kampala either in-kind or through cash transfers. RRP partners continued financial literacy training in the settlements hosting South Sudanese refugees, targeting refugees and asylum-seekers who receive assistance through cash-based transfers. In the first half of 2021, 2,723 (1,750 male and 973 females) Trainer of Trainers were prepared who in turn trained a total of 86,582 (34,371 male and 52,211 female) refugees and asylum-seekers.



South Sudanese refugee children at Abu Jabra in Sudan. © UNHCR/Saima Hassan

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, RRP partners prioritized prevention measures in all asylum countries. The inclusion of refugees in COVID-19 vaccination plans by the governments in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda was a welcome development.

In the **DRC**, 49 South Sudanese refugees were vaccinated against COVID-19 in Aru and in Aba, while radio broadcasts were continuously held to increase community awareness on the prevention of COVID-19. RRP partners furthermore focused their activities on treating malnutrition, providing nutritional support for severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and moderate acute malnutrition (MAM), nutritional monitoring of infants and of persons with chronic diseases. The under-five mortality rate (0.24/1000/month) was within the acceptable range of 1.5/1000. In the first 6 months of 2021, 13,290 refugees received free primary health care, while 578 refugees received secondary health care assistance in the general hospital.

In **Ethiopia**, risk communication on COVID-19 and other communicable diseases is ongoing and infection control measures were intensified. RRP partners supported the Gambella General Hospital COVID-19 treatment unit with 5 ICU beds, 50 oxygen cylinders, 300 protection clothing, a PCR machine and test kits. Refugees are included in the Ministry of Health COVID-19 vaccination plan and 2,230 refugees were vaccinated by mid-year. Despite the challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic, RRP partners continued to provide preventive measures and comprehensive primary care 24/7 in the refugee camps through a network of 18 health facilities. 367 patients were admitted in health centres in the refugee camps and 312 patients were referred to secondary and tertiary health care service providers. 10,453 acutely malnourished children were identified and enrolled in malnutrition treatment programs. 347 children with severe acute malnutrition were treated and 3,226 refugees were included in Supplementary Feeding Programs. To improve overall nutrition service provision to refugees, acute malnutrition training was given to 10 health staff in Assosa refugee camp.

In **Kenya**, the 8 health facilities within Kakuma camp and Kalobeyei settlement continued to offer comprehensive primary health care services without any interruption. 256 community health care-workers trained on case management and infection prevention contributed to health responses. Rapid and PCR testing capacity for COVID-19 has become available through the installation of a Gene Expert machine, which facilitated identification of new cases and follow-up. In the first half of 2021, a total of 5,941 COVID-19 tests were conducted, with 534 new cases identified. These were isolated and contact tracing undertaken. 3 deaths from COVID-19 have been recorded. Refugees and asylum-seekers have been included in the COVID-19 vaccination plan and 1,207 persons received the first dose, while 423 refugees were fully vaccinated. The nutrition programs targeting children below 5 years, pregnant and lactating women were operational. The OTP (outpatient therapeutic program) served 1,711 children with severe malnutrition, while the TSFP (targeted supplementary feeding program) assisted 5,462 children with moderate malnutrition. 124 children from both



A South Sudanese refugee in Ethiopia uses his sewing skills to produce children's clothing, covering a challenging gap for the parents in the refugee camp, while earning income that helps him provide for his family. © UNHCR/Elisabeth Arnsdorf Haslund

the refugee (85) and host community (39) were treated in the stabilization ward for severe malnutrition complicated by a medical condition.

In **Sudan**, RRP partners provided primary health care services to 313,195 South Sudanese refugees and supported community management of acute malnutrition (CMAM), which involved identification and treatment of malnourished children aged between 6 and 59 months reaching a total of 6,824 malnourished children. RRP partners continued to provide nutritional support to South Sudanese refugees in line with the national nutrition response plan. Due to funding shortages, not all required medicines, medical supplies and equipment could be procured, thus affecting the quality of medical services.

In **Uganda**, RRP partners continued to support the national health care system as well as health facilities and referral services in and around settlements hosting South Sudanese refugees. As a result, equitable access and quality of health services for refugees and host communities improved despite resource constraints and COVID-19 related challenges. RRP partners also implemented a series of activities in support of the Ministry's COVID-19 Response Plan. Institutional quarantine and treatment centres were established across refugee-hosting districts and support provided to district health facilities to improve health service delivery for refugees and host community members during the COVID-19 pandemic. RRP partners further carried out COVID-19 infection, prevention and control activities across settlements. Refugees have also been included in the COVID-19 vaccine deployment plan.

Another critical priority was the response to malnutrition. In the DRC, a total of 1,952 individuals suffering from malnutrition received targeted assistance. In Ethiopia, anemia among refugee children (6-59 months) reached 44.2% and 15,863 acutely malnourished under-five children were admitted for nutrition treatment. The pandemic affected systemized management of nutrition treatment and curative programmes resulting in missed opportunities for timely identification and treatment of malnutrition. In Kenya, the integrated management of malnutrition programs obtained cure rates above 90% even during the COVID-19 pandemic. In Sudan, RRP partners continued to support community management of acute malnutrition, which involved identification and treatment of malnourished children aged between 6 and 59 months reaching a total of 21,212 malnourished children. In Uganda, 85.2% of severely malnourished South Sudanese refugee children recovered in 2020, while the rest continued to receive treatment.

LIVELIHOODS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Despite the commitment of RRP partners to strengthen self-reliance of refugees and enhance the protection of the environment, livelihoods activities were severely impacted by resource constraints and the COVID-19 restrictive measures.

In the **DRC**, in the first half of 2021, RRP partners supported 1,027 South Sudanese households (800 in Biringi and 227 in Bele) and host community members with self-reliance and livelihoods. 617 public awareness sessions and door-to-door sensitization campaigns for refugees were held to share information on livelihood activities. The majority of these households were provided with 500 hectares of arable land (0.5 hectares per household), agricultural kits consisting of seeds (beans and corn) and farming tools. 447 leaders of agricultural groups participated in training on modern farming techniques. A storage complex with drying areas for the Bele and Biringi settlements was constructed to improve post-harvest management. An agroforestry pilot project in Biringi settlement was initiated, by setting up a nursery of 26,400 acacia magnum seedlings to be transplanted over a 20ha area. By 30 June 2021, 2,200 seedlings had been transplanted on a surface area of over 2 ha. Furthermore, a poultry project (breeding 1,500 hens) was developed in Biringi settlement in support of 30 households including 9 host community households, and two new ponds were prepared to increase fish farming activities at the Biringi settlement.

In **Ethiopia**, RRP partners rehabilitated six hectares of degraded forest land in Assosa and 24 hectares in Gambella. In Assosa, 95,000 seedlings were planted and in Gambella 510,000 tree and fruit seedlings were raised, as well as 234,940 seedlings planted for greening refugee and host community home gardens and communal spaces in 9 refugee settlements. 1,518 households received firewood and briquettes in Gure Shombolla and Tsore (Assosa) refugee camps. RRP partners also distributed maize seed and farming tools, and conducted agriculture trainings and energy workshops with the participation of refugee and host community representatives. Livelihoods and self-reliance of refugees was strengthened through the provision of 175 acres of land provided by the regional government to refugees for crop production, thereby granting 85% of the targeted refugee and host community population access to land. Moreover, 100 artisans in 5 refugee camps were contracted to produce bracelets for MADE51 and UNIQLO, while 3 women cooperatives were set up, and 550 residence/work permits were issued to refugees under the Economic Opportunity Programme funded by the World Bank.



South Sudanese refugees at Bidibidi settlement, Uganda, work on a construction site as part of the cash for work programme, which provides hands on learning opportunities and employment. © UNHCR/Esther Ruth Mbabazi

In **Kenya**, access to bank accounts facilitated the transition to cash-based interventions (CBI) for over 30,000 refugees. RRP partners provided productive assets, training and business support to 46% of the targeted refugees. In an effort to discontinue firewood and charcoal consumption and transition to clean and sustainable cooking energy solutions, RRP partners provided CBI for cooking energy in the first half of 2021 to 117,528 individuals (22,092 Households). However, due to funding constraints, only 7% of refugees' daily cooking energy needs are met via CBI. Given that refugees do not have any access to the national electricity grid, diesel generators and renewable energy (solar kits) are popular. However, electricity generated from diesel is expensive and the renewable energy sources only cover minor needs, such as mobile charging and basic lighting. Over 400 households and 100 SMEs were connected to three solar mini grids in the camps. In the first half of 2021, 82,928 tree seedlings were planted to enhance the environment.

In **Sudan**, RRP partners focused on meeting the energy needs of refugees and host communities by increasing the sustainable use of renewable energy sources to minimize environmental impact, reduce tensions between refugees and host communities over the competition of resources, and improving refugees' protection and well-being. 1,200 refugee households and 200 families from host communities received alternative energy stoves, including 1,000 ethanol stoves and 400 improved cooking stoves. 200 training of trainers (TOTS) among refugees and host community women and men in East Darfur were trained in the production and use of improved cooking stoves. In addition, 46,000 tree seedlings were grown in refugee and host community sites in White Nile and East Darfur States. Due to funding shortages, RRP partners engagement in livelihood opportunities for refugees was very limited, resulting in a critical gap in refugees' economic inclusion and self-reliance, and scarce employment and other income opportunities.

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In **Uganda**, the COVID-19 pandemic and prevention measures put in place by the Government to contain its spread, affected refugees' livelihoods, resulting in a loss of income for many South Sudanese refugees. Reduced food assistance compounded the situation. RRP partners stepped up quick impact and income-generating activities including joint

host and refugee community agricultural projects and local production initiatives (masks, underwear, etc). 73,868 South Sudanese refugee households benefitted from emergency livelihoods support via cash assistance by mid-2021. The Government's Jobs and Livelihoods Response Plan increased investment in income-generating activities, access to savings and credit, and to sustainable employment opportunities through strengthened engagement of local government and private sector in the delivery of services to refugees and host communities (e.g. agriculture extension and registration of small businesses). RRP partners also supported environmental restoration and protection, raising 5.03 million assorted tree seedlings for planting across the operation. By end of June 2021, the National Forest Authority had planted 150 ha of trees for restoration of degraded Central Forest Reserves. RRP partners also distributed 12,173 energy saving stoves to South Sudanese refugees. Six health centres in Rhino Camp and Imvepi were solarized to improve health service delivery.

SHELTER AND NFIS

In the context of the pandemic, RRP partners supported the construction of reception, isolation and quarantine centers in addition to the creation of emergency and transitional shelters, as well as the upgrading of housing for refugees to varying extents in all asylum countries.

In the **DRC**, 130 shelters were built in Bele and 1 in Biringi, 115 tool kits distributed to households in Bele, and 101 households (338 refugees) received cash assistance to complete their shelters. 80% of households have already transformed their emergency shelters into transitional shelters. In addition, 5 community sheds were rehabilitated (3 in Biringi and 2 in Bele) and 6 refugee housing units were installed to serve as interview rooms in Biringi and Bele settlements. At the end of June 2021, 370 planned emergency shelters have still not been constructed due to delays in land availability in Biringi and Bele.

In **Ethiopia**, RRP partners increased the shelter coverage in Gambella (7 camps) and Assosa (2 camps) from 55.6% at the end of 2020 to 57.65% as of 30 June 2021. 156 new transitional shelters were constructed and provided to refugee households; additional new transitional shelter construction is ongoing in four refugee camps. In addition, 882 emergency shelters were constructed and allocated to new refugee arrivals. 227 transitional shelters were rehabilitated in three refugee camps by mid-year. In Assosa, a shelter maintenance needs assessment found that 500 transitional shelters in Gure-Shombolla and 350 transitional shelters in Tsore camp were in urgent need of repair and maintenance. RRP partners constructed 4.53 km access road and 8 drainage culverts in Okugo camp and 0.25 km internal road in Pagak Reception Center. There is an urgent need for additional 25 km road maintenance to improve access to service facilities such as to the water pumping station, food distribution and health centers in Gambella region. Infrastructure maintenance, such as registration shade and waiting sheds, are ongoing. 1,500 South Sudanese households received NFIs on a needs basis; while all households (343,752 individuals) received soap (2/ person/ month) as a COVID-19 preventive measure.

In **Kenya**, RRP partners provided NFIs to 14,368 refugees (5,321 households) in Kalobeyei and Kakuma and soap was distributed to 3,567 households with children. Furthermore, 4,019 newly arrived South Sudanese received NFIs. 300 households who were left homeless due to floods were relocated to new safe areas in Kalobeyei, where they received NFIs. As of 30 June 2021, 740 semi-permanent shelters had been constructed for 2418 new asylum-seekers from South Sudan, covering 95.94% of the needs. 29 dilapidated refugee shelters were repaired. RRP partners provided cash assistance to 122,124 registered asylum-seekers and refugees for NFIs. Cash-based interventions also allowed 180 South Sudanese households to convert their transitional shelters into permanent houses. As a result, 3515 South Sudanese households are living in permanent shelters (covering 53% of the needs) and the host community also obtained 46 permanent shelters. The active involvement of South Sudanese refugees in the construction of their shelter enhanced their dignity, improved financial inclusion and allowed refugees to contribute to the local economy.

In **Sudan**, the Shelter and NFI response prioritized support for South Sudanese refugees in White Nile, South/East Darfur and Kordofan States, which contributed to enhancing refugees' protection in the settlements/camps, including from exposure to extreme weather conditions. In the first half of 2021, 8,922 newly arrived refugees received emergency shelter kits and 36,605 received NFI kits. Moreover, 20,240 South Sudanese refugees received assistance for transitional and/or permanent shelter.

In **Uganda**, despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, RRP partners provided non-food items, as well as semi-permanent shelters for 246 households with persons with specific needs. Several transit and reception centres were turned into institutional quarantine facilities for the district, hosting refugee and host communities. Repair and maintenance of communal shelters at operational transit facilities and reception centers continued. Overall, gaps and challenges in provision of shelters for persons with specific needs remained, due to severe underfunding and the

limited supply of renewable construction materials. As borders reopen, there is need to improve shelter conditions at transit and reception facilities.

WASH

In the context of the COVID-19 response, RRP partners supported reinforced WASH interventions. Against a target of 20 litres of water per person per day, the average was 22.45 L in Bele settlement, 13.8 L in Meri settlement and 13.3 in Beringi settlement (DRC); 19.1 L in Gambella camps and 21 L in Assosa camps (Ethiopia); 20.64 L in Kakuma and 21.35 L in Kalobeyei (Kenya); 17 L in Sudan; and 18.8 L in Uganda.

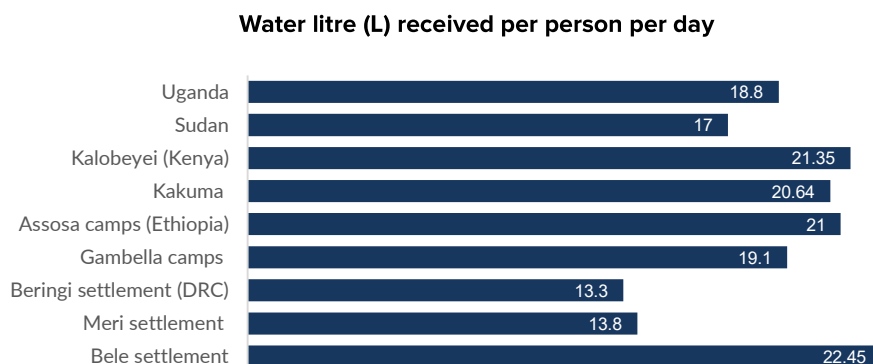
In the **DRC**, the average amount of water in Meri and Beringi refugee settlements fell short of the minimum standard of 20 liters of water per person per day; while there were serious gaps in latrines in Meri (5,853 latrines needed) and in Beringi (1576 latrines needed).

In **Ethiopia**, the provision of safe drinking water and construction of household latrines, as well as the dissemination of information for personal and environmental hygiene to refugees was prioritized as part of the effort to reduce morbidities from water borne diseases, as well as the risk of communicable disease outbreaks. WASH services were provided to new arrivals in Pagak Reception Centre. Despite the construction of 398 new household latrines in the first half of 2021, 75% of the households still did not have a family latrine or hand washing station in their homesteads. Campaigns on environmental and personal hygiene (including on COVID-19 prevention measures) reached 296,187 refugees and their hosts.

In **Kenya**, various activities were carried out to improve water supply, sanitation and hygiene. Three boreholes were drilled and equipped with solar pumping systems to increase the water supply. A new 10km long pipeline was installed from Kakuma to Kalobeyei. Sanitation situation was improved through cash-based interventions and community-led sanitation. 93% of the refugees and asylum-seekers were provided with soap. Household latrine coverage only amounted to 42.11% in Kakuma and 79.87% in Kalobeyei. RRP partners reached the entire population in both sites through health campaigns to promote good hygiene practices and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

In **Sudan**, RRP partners provided 247,140 refugees with access to safe drinking water by maintaining 45 water systems. However, shortage of latrines in camps and refugee settlements remained a critical gap, as 52% of refugee households did not have access to household latrines. Another concern was that only 55% of refugee households in camp settings received sufficient soap.

In **Uganda**, efforts continued to implement the Water and Environment Sector Refugee Response Plan launched by the Ministry of Water and Environment in 2020, providing a comprehensive framework to guide WASH service delivery in refugee hosting districts. 99.5% of the daily water demand was supplied through permanent water schemes, whilst only pockets of settlements which recently received new arrivals relied on water trucking. By mid-2021, 4 water schemes in settlements hosting South Sudanese refugees were managed by Government utilities. Access to sanitation and hygiene services for refugees and host communities further improved with 76% of South Sudanese refugees having access to households' latrines by mid-2021. In response to COVID-19, pumping hours were increased in settlements hosting South Sudan refugees.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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REGIONAL RRP PARTNERS

- Action Action Africa Help International
- Action Against Hunger (ACF)
- Action For The Needy In Ethiopia
- ADRA
- Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED)
- AIC-K/Johanniter Internal Assistance
- Alight
- Almanar
- Alsalam Organization for Rehabilitation and Development
- Alshrooq Organization for Social and Cultural Development
- Association for Aid and Relief, Japan (AAR Japan)
- Bethany Christian Service Global, LLC
- Building Resources Across Communities (BRAC)
- Business and Professional Women Organization
- CAFOD
- Care and Assistance For Forced Migrants (CAFOMI)
- CARE International
- Caritas Uganda
- Catholic Organization for Relief and Development Aid (CORDAID)
- Catholic Relief Services
- Concern Worldwide (CWW)
- Cooperazione e Sviluppo (CESVI)
- COOPI
- COSMESS
- DanChurchAid (DCA)
- Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
- Doctors with Africa
- Don Bosco
- Film Aid Kenya
- Finn Church Aid (FCA)
- Finnish Refugee Council (FRC)
- Food and Agriculture Organization
- Food for the Hungry (FH)
- Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit
- Global Aid Hand
- GOAL
- HelpAge International
- Hope and Homes for Children Organization
- Hope Health Action East Africa (HHA)
- Humane Africa Mission(HAM)
- Humanitarian Initiative Just Relief Aid (HIJRA)
- Humanity & Inclusion (HI)
- IMPACT Initiatives/REACH
- Inter-church Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO)
- International Aid Services (IAS)
- International Medical Corps
- International Rescue Committee (IRC)
- Islamic Relief Worldwide
- IsraAid
- JASMAR Human Security Organization
- Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)
- Johanniter
- Kenya Red Cross Society
- Lutheran World Federation (LWF)
- Malteser International
- Medair
- Médecins du Monde (MDM)
- Medical Teams International (MTI)
- Mercy Corps
- NADA
- National Council of Churches of Kenya
- Norwegian Church Aid
- Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
- Oxfam
- Peace Winds Japan
- Plan International (PI)
- Refugee Consortium of Kenya
- Right to Play (RtP)
- Samaritan's Purse (SP)
- Save the Children International (SCI)
- Self Help Africa
- SNV Netherlands Development Organisation
- Sudanese Organization for Relief and Recovery
- TPO Uganda
- Trocaire
- Tutapona Trauma Rehabilitation (TTR)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Development Programme
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- United Nations Migration Agency (IOM)
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- United Peace Organization
- UN-WOMEN
- War Child Canada (WCC)
- War Child Holland (WCH)
- Water Mission Uganda (WMU)
- Welthungerhilfe
- Windle International Kenya
- Windle International Uganda
- World Food Programme
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- World Vision International (WVI)
- ZOA