



# SOUTH SUDAN SITUATION

## REGIONAL UPDATE

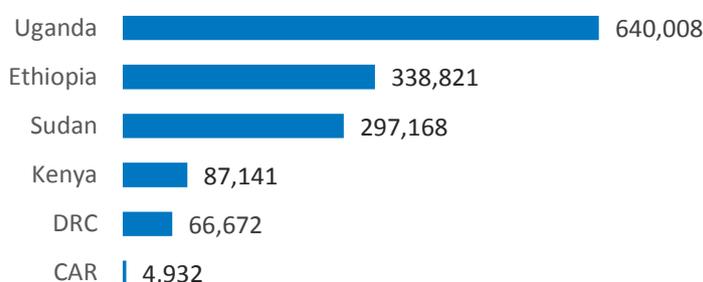
1 – 31 December 2016

### HIGHLIGHTS

- **Uganda received high numbers of new arrivals from South Sudan in the first half of December**, peaking on 13 December when over 7,000 refugees crossed into Uganda, the third highest daily arrival in 2016. However the rate of arrival decreased significantly towards the end of the month, with just 59 arrivals recorded on Christmas Day.
- **In South Sudan**, UNHCR provided assistance in Maban after inter-community conflict which broke out between 25 and 28 December between refugees from Doro refugee camp and host community in Bunj, Maban County. The conflict was triggered by the detention and death of a male refugee in custody on 23 December 2016.
- **In Kenya**, the ongoing verification exercise in Kakuma was completed in late December, confirming 84,983 South Sudanese refugees in Kakuma and Kalobeyei. The total South Sudanese refugee population in Kenya stands at 87,378, including individuals registered in Nairobi and Dadaab.

#### Population of concern

A total of **1,434,742** South Sudanese refugees as of 31 December\*



| New Arrivals | Total new arrivals in 2016 |
|--------------|----------------------------|
| Ethiopia     | 53,661                     |
| Sudan        | 134,370                    |
| Uganda       | 489,234                    |
| Kenya        | 22,501                     |
| DRC          | 61,125                     |
| CAR          | 659                        |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>761,550</b>             |

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

### KEY FIGURES

**761,550\***

South Sudanese arrivals in 2016, based on field reports (as of 31 Dec)

**1,434,742\***

Total South Sudanese refugees as of 31 Dec (both pre and post Dec 2013 caseload and new arrivals)

**261,541**

Refugees in South Sudan

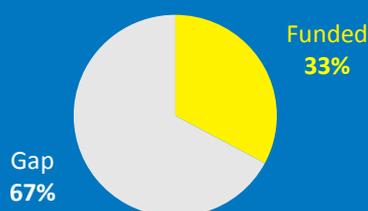
**1.8 M**

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

### FUNDING (as of 3 January)

**USD 649.0 M**

Requested by UNHCR in 2016 for the South Sudan situation



# UPDATE ON THE SITUATION

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



[Ethiopia](#)



[Kenya](#)



[South Sudan](#)



[Sudan](#)



[Uganda](#)

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

## SOUTH SUDAN

### Latest developments

- **UNHCR provided assistance in Maban after inter-community conflict which broke out between 25 and 28 December between refugees from Doro refugee camp and the host community in Bunj, Maban County.** The conflict was triggered by the detention and death of a male refugee in custody on 23 December 2016. Sporadic yet heavy shooting continued through to Tuesday 27 December, which rendered the airstrip inaccessible. By the 28 December fighting had subsided and flights resumed shortly afterwards. UNHCR and its partners have now been able to undertake assessments in all four camps of Maban, home to over 137,000 refugees from Sudan's Blue Nile State. Initial findings suggest over 8,000 local community members have been displaced locally and some 10,000 refugees in Doro, one fifth of the camp, have relocated themselves to alternative nearby locations.
- **UNHCR and its partner UMCOR continue to remotely monitor the situation of refugees living in five locations in the bushes of Lasu Payam** as a result of the outbreak of violence in July and ongoing conflict that continues to prevent refugees from returning to the settlement. Lack of humanitarian services in the five locations remains a major concern among the refugee population, as UNHCR has no access to the area due to insecurity. UNHCR was able to relocate 61 Nuba refugees to Ajuong Thok refugee camp. These refugees were displaced into urban Yei as a result of the renewed violence in July.
- **UNHCR participated in the OCHA-led Inter-Agency Rapid Needs Assessment (IRNA) to Kajo Keji County.** Approximately 30,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) were reported in the county and the assessment's findings have been shared with the respective clusters for review and humanitarian response.

### Achievements and Impact

- **UNHCR partners Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) and Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED) distributed non-food items (NFIs) to 3,097 IDPs** in Malual, Warweng payams, Longochuk and Guel Guk counties, Upper Nile, following the UNHCR-led interagency mission conducted in late November.
- **UNHCR continued to relocate refugees from Yida to Pamir camp, Unity state**, bringing the cumulative total to 6,418 refugees relocated since September. In December, UNHCR conducted 24 advocacy sessions on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in Pamir.
- **Over 900 refugee students sat for the National Primary Leaving Examination**, including 235 pupils in Ajuong Thok, Unity, and 706 students in Maban camps, Upper Nile state.
- **UNHCR partner World Vision International (WVI) completed the General Food Distribution for 2,998 refugees** and asylum seekers in Makupandu refugee settlement, Western Equatoria state.
- **In Kaya and Gendrasa camps, Upper Nile state, UNHCR partner Medair completed the third round of Polio National Immunization Days (NID) for children** between zero and five months with the polio vaccine. This is a national Government of South Sudan program to supplement the routine Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) to enable children to get an additional boost for their immunity.
- **In Maban camps, Upper Nile, UNHCR and partner ACTED distributed sanitary materials to 4,860 refugee girls and women of reproductive age.**

- **In Rumbek, Lakes state, UNHCR facilitated protection training for 30 social workers** of the Ministry of Education and Social Development, Police, and Prison service department. The training module covered topics on general protection, human rights, SGBV, child protection and roles of social workers in emergency response.

## Countries of Asylum

### CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

#### Achievements and Impact

- **A total of four relocation convoys arrived in Obo during December.** By the end of the month the total number of refugees relocated from Bambouti to Obo had reached 1,030, and the South Sudanese refugee population in Obo stood at 1,687. A number of refugees who are staying with hosting families have expressed an interest in moving to the camp. UNHCR and its partners are following up on this and assisting as appropriate.
- **On 12 December, the UNHCR Representative in CAR and the Secretary General of the *Commission Nationale de Réfugiés (CNR)*, conducted a mission to Obo and Bambouti to meet with refugees, the authorities and partners on the ground.** Those refugees still in Bambouti reaffirmed their agreement to relocate to Obo, agreeing that there would be significant benefits in terms of security and ease of assistance. In Obo, a delegation of refugee community leaders expressed their gratitude for the assistance already provided in terms of shelter. Other forms of assistance such as vocational trainings will be considered once the numbers in the camp have increased and the population has stabilised. UNHCR will continue to pursue an integrated approach to assistance that provides support for existing local services to be enjoyed by both refugees and the host population alike. Partners have been providing sensitisation trainings on basic day-to-day activities such as how to safely light a fire and how to responsibly make use of the available resources.

### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

#### Latest developments

- **On 3 December, 155 South Sudanese, the majority women, children and injured people, crossed into DRC in the area of Aba,** following clashes in South Sudan. UNHCR provided them with transport to Meri site (near Aba, Haut-Uele Province) for further verification, registration and assistance.
- **UNHCR transferred 313 refugees to Biringi site (Aru territory) during December.** Due to the volatile security situation in Dungu Territory, relocation to Nambili site (near Doruma, Haut-Uele Province) remained on hold.
- **In late December, DRC authorities detained alleged combatants from South Sudan who were found in refugee sites.** One suspected SPLA combatant, not registered as a refugee, was identified at Meri site on 24 December, while six suspected militia members were arrested by the Army at Nambili on 27 December. In both cases, suspects were released after a few days. UNHCR and the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) will continue advocacy in coordination with MONUSCO to ensure that the civilian character of asylum is maintained.

#### Achievements and Impact

- **A UNHCR registration team was deployed to Meri site until 8 December and registered 11,161 refugees biometrically.**
- **Some 132 unaccompanied children, including 46 girls, were identified at Biringi and Meri sites.** UNHCR organised a training for social workers and refugee representatives at Meri site on 24 December on unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), and a second training took place in Aru for three refugees, two locals and two ADSSE social workers. The group will be child protection focal points at Biringi site.
- **Construction of 85 shelters for persons with specific needs is underway at Biringi.**
- **The construction of two health centres at Biringi and Meri is underway.** They will benefit refugees and the local community. Refugees continue to receive medical screening and care, with malaria and respiratory infections as the most frequent health problems.
- **Intensive French classes were launched at Biringi and Meri sites,** to allow refugee children to attend local schools.
- **At Meri, the preparation of 16 communal fields (50m x 50m) is underway.** Some 100 households at Biringi site received agricultural land in the second half of December, but still require agricultural kits.

## ETHIOPIA

### Latest developments

- **52,841 South Sudanese refugees have arrived in Gambella, Ethiopia between 3 September and 31 December 2016, including some 10,000 new arrivals in December.** A total of 52,690 new arrivals have been relocated to the refugee camps, and the remaining 151 registered individuals await relocation. The newly arrived refugees come predominantly from Upper Nile State counties including Longechuk, Mathiang, Maiwut, Nasir, Ulang and Maban, and report food insecurity, sporadic fighting and fear of renewal of fighting as the main reasons for flight. Of the new arrivals, 65 per cent are children (under 18 years) and 24 per cent are youth (15 – 24 years).
- **UNHCR and partners, in close cooperation with the Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA), are in the process of assessing resources needed to ensure preparedness** in case a renewed influx of refugees from South Sudan to Ethiopia. In addition to the Nguenyiel camp established in October 2016, a new site is now being considered by ARRA in Benshangul-Gumaz region.

### Achievements and Impact

- **At Pagak entry point, the number of new arrivals dropped significantly over the end of December.** The help desk remained operational and child and youth-friendly facilities were open. Some 297 children and youth, including host community members, participated in games and recreational activities. Individual psychosocial counselling on SGBV, related awareness raising activities and recreational exercises were also provided to the new arrivals.
- **In the new Nguenyiel camp, UNHCR, ARRA and partners are focusing joint efforts on the high number of UASC, as well as other vulnerable children.** Children and youth continue to access services in the child and youth friendly spaces and the newly constructed emergency school opened to receive students.
- **Construction of emergency shelters, hangars, access roads and other facilities continued.** Some 190,000 litres of potable water has been trucked to Nguenyiel camp on a daily basis, failing to meet the target of 240,000 litres due to a truck breakdown. Water supply remains a problem to be addressed given the increasing population.

## KENYA

### Latest developments

- **UNHCR registered 4,060 South Sudanese refugees in December, a decrease on the 4,685 registered in November.** New arrivals have reported insecurity, hunger, armed militia attacks, and fear of a major outbreak of conflict in South Sudan as the main reasons for flight.
- **The ongoing verification exercise in Kakuma was completed in late December.** The official results, after data clean up, shows that the current population of asylum seekers and refugees stand at 154,947 individuals, inclusive of those at Kalobeyei settlement. Of the verified population, 84,983 (54.8 per cent) are from South Sudan.
- **A total of 22,358 South Sudanese arrivals have been registered in Kenya in 2016,** representing 84 per cent of all new arrivals into the country since 1 January 2016.

### Achievements and Impact

- **Relocation of refugees to Kalobeyei settlement is ongoing.** A total of 1,123 individuals were relocated from the reception centre at Kalobeyei and Kakuma to the community in Kalobeyei in December. As at 31 December, the population at Kalobeyei stood at 16,950 individuals, of which 85 per cent (14,469 individuals) are from South Sudan.

## SUDAN

### Latest developments

- **Field validation of WFP and UNHCR's Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) assessment findings was completed in early December across all eight South Sudanese refugee camps in White Nile.** The JAM is a multi-month process designed to assess the extent to which the basic needs of the refugees are being met. As part of the JAM's initial stages, UNHCR and WFP have completed a series of assessments since May, including a food security assessment, a Standardized Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS), a livelihoods assessment and a Cash-Based Transfer (CBT) market and supply chain capacity assessment. Preliminary findings are currently being reviewed by both agencies and a final report is anticipated for February 2017.

## Achievements and Impact

- **In East Darfur, biometric registration of refugees living at the Kario site began in early December.** Biometric registration will facilitate the rapid registration of all new arrivals, support the verification of refugee identities and improve the tracking of refugee movements within Sudan.
- **The identification and assessment of UASC continues to be a key priority for the response.** In Kario, East Darfur, Riaheen El Salam for Maternity and Childhood Organization (REMCO) is supporting the identification of UASC, with 26 UASC identified, bringing the total to 54 UASC living at Kario. In South Kordofan, the State Council for Child Welfare (SCCW) conducted best interest assessments (BIAs) for 280 UASC cases living in Abu Jubaiha and El Leri. In Khartoum, UNHCR conducted vulnerability assessments and BIAs for 10 UASC cases. In White Nile, social workers from the Ministry of Social Welfare (MOSW) conducted BIAs for 51 UASC, with an additional 79 UASC matched to foster families for ongoing care. These activities are essential to ensure child protection initiatives are properly targeted and effectively respond to the unique needs of South Sudanese UASC.
- **Land plot demarcation and site planning are underway for the Al Nimir refugee site in Assalaya, East Darfur.** The site is planned for 10,000 South Sudanese refugees from Raja in South Sudan's Western Bahr el Ghazal state. So far, UNHCR and SRCS have demarcated 400 land plots. Once site planning is complete, UNHCR will build a reception centre and will provide shelter and NFI assistance. Global Aid Hand (GAH) will build one child-friendly space and will support the identification and protection of UASC. The American Refugee Committee (ARC) will provide health and nutrition services, including the provision of medicines. Care International – Switzerland (CIS) will oversee water and sanitation services and will rehabilitate two existing boreholes, as well as 1,500 metres of water pipes. CIS will also build community and household latrines and will carry out hygiene promotion activities. Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) will assist in the provision of shelter, sanitation and primary health care services.

## UGANDA

### Latest developments

- **In the first two weeks of December, Uganda received an increasing influx of new arrivals from South Sudan, peaking on 13 December when over 7,000 refugees crossed into Uganda,** the third highest daily arrival in 2016. However the rate of arrival decreased significantly towards the end of the month, with just 59 arrivals recorded on Christmas Day, 25 December. According to refugees interviewed, they were informed by authorities in South Sudan that the Ugandan government, humanitarian agencies and partners would have limited availability to receive and provide them with assistance during the holiday season.
- **The majority of refugees arriving in Uganda originate from the Equatoria Region of South Sudan.** There has been a notable influx of refugees from Kajo Keji district. Refugees indicated that they had been urged to leave the area by 25 December as rival forces prepare to fight. Refugees arriving in Lamwo district reported that armed groups had blocked the border of South Sudan near Lamwo district, leaving many people attempting to reach Uganda stranded in South Sudan. Other refugees reported that they left the country due to the deteriorating security situation and rumours of upcoming attacks by armed forces in Equatoria. They reported that armed groups have been fighting each other in Yei and Onduruba areas, near Juba, and that unknown gunmen have been looting properties. It was also reported that youth are being targeted in the violence.
- **Refugees reported that due to insecurity they were unable to use the main roads to the border** and the majority arrived in Uganda through informal border points. Over 5,300 South Sudanese refugees to date have reached Uganda through the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Refugees reported roadblocks and insecurity between Morobo and Kaya as reasons for travelling through DRC.

### Achievements and Impact

- **Protection in Palorinya:** The refugee population at Palorinya settlement, Moyo, now stands at 27,167. Screening of persons with specific needs (PSNs), awareness raising about SGBV and provision of psychosocial support, and biometric registration is ongoing for newly arrived refugees. A second registration centre has been established in Zone 1 to expedite the relocation process and a litigation desk was set up to follow up on cases of family reunification, separated children and registration issues. Child Protection Desks are now in place at the Reception Centre. A total of 36 children are currently in foster care.
- **Protection in Bidibidi:** Over 19,600 PSN have been identified in the settlement and continue to receive targeted assistance and psychological support. The total number of SGBV cases reported in Bidibidi since August now stands at 384. All cases in December are being followed up using a multi-sectoral approach, including medical and

psychosocial support, and all cases of sexual violence were reported to the police. A total of 3,196 children with specific needs have been identified in Bidibidi. UNHCR and partners have reinforced case management, reporting, follow up and monitoring, which may account for the increase in the number of cases being reported in December. There are currently 1,270 children in foster care.

- **In December, over 900 students in Bidibidi and Adjumani attended their final Primary Level Eight examination.** The school year ended in Uganda, with the next academic year commencing in February 2017. In Bidibidi, construction is underway to increase the number of schools for 2017, including Early Childhood Development Centres and Secondary Schools. A 'Go to School' campaign was launched to encourage enrollment. In Moyo, identification of school age children continued. Profiling of school-aged children with specific needs and vulnerabilities is also underway at the school registration desks.
- **Refugees continued to receive vaccination, outpatient consultations and other health services across all settlements.** The leading causes of illness in Adjumani, Bidibidi and Moyo were malaria and Acute Respiratory Tract Infections. In Bidibidi, an average of 11 per cent of outpatient consultations were conducted for host community members. Two new ambulances have been delivered to Bidibidi.
- **In Bidibidi, efforts are underway to reduce the supplementary feeding defaulter rate.** The rate peaked at an estimate 44 per cent in early December, well above the target range of less than 15 per cent, but dropped down to under 15 per cent in later weeks. One of the reasons for refugees defaulting is their continuous movement and relocation between zones.
- **In Moyo, refugees receive a 30 day food ration upon relocation to their plots in Palorinya settlement.** The food distribution point is established within close proximity to the settlement blocks and a complaints desk has been established to capture and address concerns related to food distribution.
- **In Moyo, access to safe water stands at 57 l/p/d at Palorinya Reception Centre, 19 l/p/d in Palorinya Zone 1 and 23 l/p/d in Zone 2.** Borehole drilling and installation of a water network are ongoing, but the land structure in Palorinya has posed challenges and delayed completion.
- **In Bidibidi, the completion of two additional boreholes and installation of water storage tanks in thirteen new locations is anticipated to increase the supply of water to refugees in the settlement.**

## CRITICAL NEEDS AND GAPS

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### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

**Protection:** Many refugees remain in insecure locations in Dungu Territory (Haut-Uele Province), such as Doruma/Nambili. So far, no site is available for their relocation. Some 34 children, born at Meri site before UNHCR's intervention started, lack birth certificates. UNHCR partners CNR and ADSSE will follow up with the authorities.

**Health:** There is a lack of condoms, mosquito nets and dignity kits for women.

### ETHIOPIA

**Water and Sanitation:** Water supply continues to remain a key challenge at camp.

**Education:** Primary education above grade four and secondary education remains a critical gap in Nguenyiel camp.

### UGANDA

**Protection:** The registration process needs to be expedited to ensure timely relocation of refugees to Palorinya settlement. Female police officers need to be deployed to police posts in Palorinya in order to enhance preparedness and response to SGBV cases and other gender-sensitive matters. Child Protection structures in Bidibidi, including Child Friendly Spaces and the pool of trained foster families, need to be increased.

**Health:** Additional skilled health workers are needed as are permanent health structures in locations with tented health facilities.

**Water and Sanitation:** More water supply points are required across the settlements to reduce the number of water trucks in use.

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Links:

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