

South Sudan Situation

1 - 31 December 2017

2,435,120*

 Total **South Sudanese refugees** in the region as of 31 Dec (pre- and post-Dec 2013 caseload)

668,192*

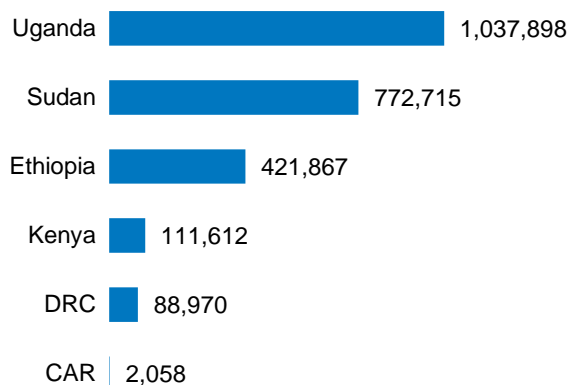
 South Sudanese refugee **arrivals in 2017**, based on field reports as of 31 December

283,409

Refugees in South Sudan and **1.9 million IDPs** as of 31 Dec

SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEES AS OF 31 DEC 2017

Host Countries



New Arrivals

	In 2016 (Jan to Dec)	In 2017 (Jan to Dec)
CAR	659	414
DRC	61,125	22,017
Ethiopia	53,661	75,447
Kenya	22,501	19,919
Uganda	489,234	354,796
Sudan	134,370	195,599
TOTAL	761,550	668,192

KEY FIGURES*

63%

of the South Sudanese refugee population are children (under the age of 18 years old)

4.61 million

Total population of concern (South Sudanese refugees, South Sudanese IDPs and refugees inside South Sudan)

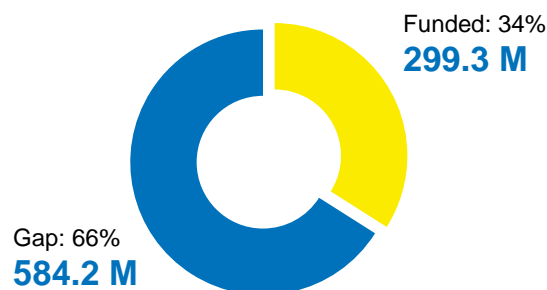
2,130,500

2017 RRP Planning figure for the total South Sudanese refugees projected in the region by 31 December 2017. This figure is now surpassed due to ongoing new arrivals and population adjustments in Sudan.

FUNDING (AS OF 12 DECEMBER 2017)

USD 883.5 M

requested for the South Sudan situation



* 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.

Regional Highlights

- **On 13 December, the 4th anniversary of the outbreak of South Sudan’s civil war in 2013, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. Filippo Grandi, appealed for urgent action by all sides to settle the conflict and put an end to the country’s deepening humanitarian crisis and Africa’s largest refugee crisis.** “The world cannot continue to stand by as the people of South Sudan are terrorized by a senseless war,” the High Commissioner said. Grandi declared that the devastating effects of the fighting were a direct consequence of tragic failures in political leadership. The full press release can be found here: <http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/news/press/2017/12/5a3135bd4/unhcrs-grandi-appeals-urgent-action-south-sudan-crisis-enters-fifth-year.html>
- **The rate of new arrivals from South Sudan into the six asylum countries has remained low but steady in December**, with 8,391 new arrivals recorded.
- **As of 31 December 2017, the total population of South Sudanese refugees stood at 2.43 million.** This represents a slight reduction on November figures, due to ongoing biometric registration and verification in Uganda and Sudan. Some 668,000 South Sudanese refugees sought asylum in 2017. This compares to 761,000 new arrivals in 2016, 156,000 in 2015 and some 482,000 in 2014.
- **In early December, Princess Sarah Zeid of Jordan, the UNHCR Advisor on Gender, Forced Displacement and Protection, conducted a mission to South Sudan and Kenya to raise awareness of the South Sudan situation.** In South Sudan, she visited several refugee camps and a site for internally displaced people – the Protection of Civilians site 3 - in Juba and Maban, where she witnessed firsthand the complexity and scale of the South Sudan crisis and met internally displaced people who shared their experiences with her. Princess Sarah also visited Kenya’s Kakuma refugee camp which hosts over 100,000 South Sudanese refugees. The full press release can be found here: <http://www.unhcr.org/news/latest/2017/12/5a2aa3f44/princess-sarah-zeid-raises-her-voice-for-women-and-girls-in-south-sudan.html>
- **UNHCR, partners and refugees across the region marked the 16 Days of Activism against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)** with various campaigns, events and activities.

Updates and Achievements

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



SOUTH SUDAN

Achievements and Impact

- **New arrivals:** In Yida, Unity, 1,880 new arrivals were registered during December. In 2017, 14,469 arrivals were registered, 45 per cent more than in 2016 (9,917).
- **SGBV:** In Jamjang, five new SGBV incidents were reported, including one physical assault, three psychological/emotional abuse cases and a rape case. All SGBV survivors were provided with emotional support and counselling. A total of 231 refugees participated in sessions on SGBV services and referral pathways upon their relocation to Ajuong Thok refugee camp. A further 390 refugees in SGBV community sensitization sessions run by UNHCR partner, International Rescue Committee (IRC), in Pamir and Ajuong Thok refugee camps. In Lasu, UNHCR partner UMCOR distributed in-kind assistance to 17 SGBV survivors (13 women, 4 men). In Yei, UNHCR partner UMCOR reported five SGBV cases. All cases are being followed up, while survivors are receiving assistance and counselling.
- **Child Protection:** Some 68 (36 boys, 32 girls) separated children were received in Ajuong Thok refugee camp, of which 33 were reunified with their biological parents. The remaining 35 children were placed in foster care with their relatives.
- **Health:** On 1 December, various refugee communities across South Sudan commemorated World Aids Day. The activities included counselling, voluntary testing, and testimonies from Persons Living with HIV/AIDS and speeches.
- **Education:** In Upper Nile, a total of 777 students (75 students from the host community and 702 refugee students) participated in South Sudan's National Final Primary Exam that was conducted across Maban's four refugee camps. In Jamjang, Unity, 570 students (including 36 from the host community) participated in the Primary Exam. The joint national exams for refugees and the host community

signified incorporation of refugees' education into the national curriculum as well as contribute to peaceful coexistence between the two communities. UNHCR and its partners DRC and ACTED completed the upgrading of 89 classrooms across four refugee camps in Maban, Upper Nile, providing conducive learning environment to more than 6,800 children.

- **IDP Response:** UNHCR jointly with UNMISS assisted 562 IDPs, previously residing in Melut Protection of Civilians site, to return/relocate to their places of origin or places of their choice. The return/relocation was implemented with full participation of IDP community of Melut POC. As of today, Melut POC is closed. Out of 562 IDPs of the former Melut POC, 76 IDPs opted for relocation to Malakal POC. Upon their arrival at Malakal POC, the IDPs were received and assisted by UNHCR and its partner Danish Refugee Council (DRC). UNHCR and its partner ADRA conducted protection monitoring and population movement tracking in Jekow, Turu, Nor Thok and Maker, of Maiwut and Nasir Counties respectively (Upper Nile). In Jekow, about 8,000 people displaced from Urieng and Maiwut, including refugee returnees from Kule and Nguenyel refugee camps in Ethiopia, were observed.

Countries of Asylum

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Achievements and Impact

- **The monthly food distribution was carried out on 22 - 23 December in Obo.** A total of 713 households (1,780 individuals) were assisted out of a planned 853 households (2,044 individuals). Each recipient received 10.5kg of maize, 2.7kg of beans, 1.8kg of fortified flour, and 0.75 litres of oil.
- **As of the end of December 2017, 313 South Sudanese refugee children were attending school in Obo.** UNHCR provided tuition fees for 121 refugee students enrolled at prefectural schools Centre 1 and Centre 2. In the camp, 107 kindergarten and first year primary school-aged children (57 boys and 50 girls) were identified and provided with supervision by volunteer parents.
- **UNHCR partner Vision to Change the World (VCW) finalised the semi-permanent shelter construction project in December.** During this project, awareness-raising activities were conducted to motivate and mobilise refugees to build their own semi-permanent shelters. During the last month of the project, 100 households received building kits comprised of a trowel, a brick-frame, a door, and a window frame. In addition to this, by the end of the month, some 122 out of a planned 142 semi-permanent shelters had been constructed for persons with specific needs.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Latest developments

- **South Sudanese refugees continued to arrive in the DRC over the course of December.** Between 18 and 22 December alone, some 200 refugees crossed into the DRC from neighboring Yei River State and found refuge at the Meri site in Aba, Haut-Uélé province, after clashes have broken out in Lasu, South Sudan. Overall, 830 South Sudanese refugees were biometrically registered in December; the smallest number of new arrivals registered in a single month in 2017. During the previous six months, an average of 1,430 refugees arrived in the DRC each month while during the first half of 2017, UNHCR registered an average of 2,030 refugees on a monthly basis.
- **Due to security and financial constraints, organized relocation from the insecure border areas in Dungu Territory to the new Kaka 1 site did not take place.** However, a first group of some 30 refugees, including 11 children, who previously resided in the border areas of Doruma and Bitima (DRC), undertook the over 200 km foot march to the newly established site.

Achievements and Impact

- **The new refugee site Kaka 1 near Dungu center was inaugurated in early December.** The first emergency shelters were handed over to the refugees who previously lived with Congolese host families or at the local primary school, and those who had newly arrived. By the end of December, 576 of the most vulnerable refugees had settled in 192 newly built emergency shelters. Meanwhile, 200 transitional shelters made of metal sheeting were under construction. UNHCR and its partners further installed family latrines; rehabilitated, equipped and extended the local primary school; developed three springs and renovated the existing health center to account for the increased population. To reduce the pressure on the surrounding forests, a group of refugees was engaged by UNHCR to build fuel-efficient stoves for the refugee community.
- **UNHCR provided a one-off cash grant of USD 90 to 220 Congolese families in Dungu who had hosted refugees.** These Congolese families – themselves living in very modest conditions – made great sacrifices by voluntarily accommodating refugees and sharing their and food, contributing significantly to the integration of the refugees into the local community. A total of 1,256 South Sudanese refugees are registered in Dungu center and until the opening of the Kaka 1 refugee site in December, most of them lived with Congolese host families for a period ranging from a few months up to three years.

ETHIOPIA

Latest developments

- **In December, 1,055 South Sudanese crossed into Ethiopia, including 931 through Gambella and 124 through Assosa.** The majority came from Jonglei state (Waat, Oror and Nyirol) while a small group arrived from Upper Nile state (Nasir and Ulang). Level 1 registration was underway with 876 of those who arrived in Gambella already relocated to Nguenyiel camp, bringing the camp's population to 83,658 people.
- **Some 87 per cent of the new arrivals in the Gambella Region in 2017 are women and children, while 17 per cent are youth (15 – 24 years).** 60 per cent of all the new arrivals since January 2017 originated from Upper Nile State (Nasir, Longechuk, Mathiang, Ulang and Maiwut Counties), while 35 per cent came from Jonglei State (Uror, Akobo and Ayod Counties). The remaining five per cent fled from the Unity State.

Achievements and Impact

- **A total of 3,154 refugees in 15 convoys have been relocated from Pagak, Gambella, to Gure-Shombola camp, Asossa,** since the beginning of relocation in May this year.
- **Protection:** ARRA approved two Protection Referral Forms (PRFs) for two families composed of 15 individuals. They relate to transfers from one camp to another within Gambella on grounds of physical protection and family reunification. Two unaccompanied children (siblings) were transported from Tierkidi to Pugnido Camp where they were reunified with their caregivers.
- **Education:** Following the opening of new primary schools in Zones C and D of Nguenyiel Camp, mobilization and registration of students is on-going with 900 students registered so far. In addition, an upper primary education has been opened in the camp, addressing one of the critical gaps in service provision. 999 students who do not have the required certificates sat for the placement examinations of grades 6 and 7, for which grading is under way.
- **Health:** New arrivals in Gambella were provided with emergency healthcare service, with 109 people approaching the mobile clinic for consultations. Of the new arrivals in Gambella, 580 children (0-15 years of age) and 548 children (6 months to 15 years of age) were vaccinated with oral polio and measles vaccines. Similarly, 243 children (6 months to 5 years of age) were given vitamin A supplementation and 202 children (2-5 years of age) were given Albendazole for deworming.
- **Food & Nutrition:** Out of 428 newly arriving children (6-59 months) screened for malnutrition, six were identified as severely acutely malnourished and 22 as moderately acutely malnourished. Follow up actions are being taken. Similarly, out of 24 pregnant and lactating women screened, two were identified as

malnourished and were being followed up. A total of 50,615 children and 12,053 pregnant and lactating mothers have been receiving blanket supplementary feeding in all camps in Gambella.

- **Shelter & Infrastructure:** Construction of a reception centre at Pamdong, including a registration space with the capacity of 7,000 refugees, was completed.

KENYA

- A full update on the Kenya response will be available in the next regional update.

SUDAN

Latest developments

- **An estimated 1,907 new arrivals have arrived in South Darfur through the border entry point at Kafia Kinji.** UNHCR and COR transported over 1,500 newly arrived refugees to the El Radom reception centre where they will be pre-registered (at the household level), and receive health and nutrition screening, hot meals, shelter materials and NFIs. The current estimated refugee population in El Radom locality is 22,314.
- **The total South Sudanese refugee population has decreased by 26,145 individuals, following the finalization of individual (biometric) registration exercises by UNHCR and COR across several states.** This includes decreases of: 15,652 in Al Lait locality in North Darfur; 6,158 in Sirajiya, South Kordofan; 1,572 among new refugee arrivals in El Meiram, West Kordofan; and 2,763 following the registration of the backlog of new arrivals at Al Waral refugee camp in White Nile. UNHCR and COR will continue to monitor these sites to ensure absent refugees can be registered in subsequent sessions.
- **Verification of individual (biometric) registration of out-of-camp refugee settlements at El Ferdous, Abu Karinka and Ed Daien, in East Darfur, has led to a decrease of total population figure by over 17,000 individuals.** It is anticipated that some refugees have moved elsewhere temporarily to pursue seasonal agricultural work opportunities. The total South Sudanese refugee population in East Darfur is estimated at 99,051. Mobile registration teams are currently in Adila and Abu Jabra, with completion of registration for out-of-camp settlements by mid-January.
- **Preliminary findings of the SENS concluded for El Meiram and Kharasna, West Kordofan, in November indicate global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates among children 6-59 months of age of 19.6 per cent in Kharasana and 16.8 per cent in El Meiram,** which is above the emergency threshold of 15 per cent. High prevalence of anaemia among both refugee children and women was also noted for El Meiram. Prevalence of stunting across both settlements remains low.

Achievements and Impact

- **An interagency needs assessment was conducted 4-6 December for an estimated 47,000 South Sudanese refugees living across Khartoum's 'open areas' settlements.** Participants included UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO, and the Government of Sudan's Commission for Refugees (COR), the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), the Commission for Voluntary and Humanitarian Work (CVHW), the Ministry of Health (MoH), Immigration and Passport Police and Military Intelligence. Initial findings indicate significant protection, livelihoods, shelter and non-food item needs, as well as the need for improved access to health and education services. An assessment report is being prepared and will inform an inter-agency response plan for early 2018.
- **In East Darfur, Care International Switzerland (CIS) completed the distribution of personal hygiene kits (PHKs) for 5,400 refugee women across Kario and Al Nimir camps.** Global Aid Hand (GAH), through support from UNFPA, distributed PHKs to an additional 1,100 women and girls at Al Nimir and the Abu Jabra settlement. In South Darfur, 1,200 refugee women and girls received PHKs. The provision of PHKs is a cross-sectoral priority with important protection, health and WASH benefits.
- **In South Kordofan, the state government's Council for Child Welfare (SCCW) and refugee committees assisted 94 unaccompanied and separated children and youth** in Sirajiya, Abu Jubaiha and Dar Batti settlements with eyeglasses, milk and supplementary food items, medical assistance and clothing. Best Interest Assessments (BIAs) for refugee children are ongoing to ensure children with specific needs are identified and prioritized for targeted assistance.
- **The State Ministry of Education (MoE) conducted an assessment across state schools where nearly 27,000 refugee primary students and 798 refugee secondary school students are currently enrolled to determine teacher gaps and capacity needs.** As a result of the assessment, 136 volunteer teachers were recruited to reduce the need for double teaching shifts at each school. The total number of teachers supporting refugee education across refugee camps is 361.
- **CIS and UNHCR continue to provide WASH support in El Radom settlement,** including through water trucking, water-quality testing, construction of household latrines, cleaning campaigns, hand pump rehabilitation and jerry can distribution. In Buram, UNHCR continues to truck water to the refugee settlement and work on emergency communal latrine construction is ongoing. WASH partners for activities in Buram in 2018 are urgently needed.
- **Friends of Peace and Development Organization (FPDO)'s work to improve livelihoods opportunities in White Nile state for refugees continues.** They recently hired 20 refugees to run their newly established bakery at Alagaya camp. With support from the State Ministry of Agriculture, FPDO also conducted a six day

training for 100 refugee farmers in Alagaya and Dabat Bosin camps on crop husbandry and agricultural extension practices.

- **Oxfam completed cash grant distribution for a planned 600 households in Al Nimir refugee camp in East Darfur, and has so far reached 700 of the planned 1,400 households in Kario camp**, with the distribution to continue into January 2018. ZOA is also coordinating with Oxfam and UNHCR to provide cash assistance to vulnerable refugee households in Al Nimir and Kario, which is anticipated to begin in January, with monthly distribution over a six month period across both camps. Cash-based interventions for refugees allow refugees to prioritize their needs, complement self-reliance initiatives and support host community economies.

UGANDA

Latest developments

- **A total of 3,159 South Sudanese refugees arrived in Uganda in the month of December**, at an average daily rate of 103. Refugees continue to report fighting between armed groups, violence and sexual assault, worsening food insecurity and lack of basic services as reasons for fleeing South Sudan.

Achievements and Impact

- **Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV):** In all settlements, UNHCR and partners continue to record and to provide legal counselling, protection and referral to population of concern. Partners also organized educational activities reaching 314 community members and 20 communities in Moyo.
- **Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs):** In Moyo, 68 persons with disabilities received mobility devices including wheel chairs and tricycle.
- **Education:** In Lamwo, 278 parents received key messages on prevention of abuse, report of abuse and punishments of children, during the Parents and Teachers Association Annual General Meeting. In Adjumani, UNHCR selected 24 students to receive support for undergraduate and diploma studies through the higher education scholarship programme (DAFI). In Moyo, 110 primary teachers (80 men and 30 women) received training on teaching methods.
- **Health:** In Lamwo, Palabek settlement now has five fully functional health units, including a new health facility which opened in Zone 6 on 1 November. These health units operate to Ministry of Health standards and serve both refugees and host community.
- **Nutrition:** In Bidibidi, 2,779 children under five were screened for their nutritional status, and 59 of them were enrolled in feeding programmes: three in inpatient therapeutic care (ITC); eight in outpatient therapeutic care (OTC); and 48 in supplementary feeding programmes (SFP). 751 pregnant women and lactating mothers were screened, 22 were identified as malnourished and enrolled in the SFP. A total of 1,921 children under five and 1,130 pregnant women benefited from

the mother and child health and nutrition programme. Two children in the ITC and 5 in the OTC recovered and were discharged. No deaths or defaulters were recorded.

- **Community Empowerment:** In Bidibidi, youth across all five zones and in Yumbe District were mobilized to take part in 'Bidibidi's Got Talent', a youth empowerment project focused on performing arts. The winners are now working on their project in Kampala. In Lamwo, UNHCR and partners supported the organization of the Palabek Christmas Football Tournament and also supported community outreach activities including community dialogues.

Critical Needs and Priorities

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

At the new Kaka 1 site, additional funds are urgently needed to accommodate the refugees still living with host families in Dungu and the large numbers residing along the dangerous border. Lack of funds is also impeding the further development of the site, notably the provision of shelter materials, the installation of water points and sanitary facilities.

SUDAN

Protection / Health / WASH: At least 20,000 refugee women and girls of reproductive age living in settlements across South and West Kordofan are in critical need of personal hygiene kits to safely manage their menstrual health. Access to menstrual hygiene materials is an essential component of refugee protection by enabling refugee women and girls to participate in daily life, including for school attendance and community participation.

Education: There is an urgent need for rehabilitation of refugee schools in Sirajiya and Dar Batti settlements, South Kordofan, to address damage incurred during the rainy season. There is also the need to construct more permanent school structures to prevent future damage.

Health: The limited availability of laboratory services and medicines remain key constraints across the response. According to WHO, laboratory services need to be upgraded in all health facilities at refugee camps in White Nile, except for the clinics at Kashafa and Alwaral camps currently run by MSF-Spain. There are also insufficient drugs stocks at refugee camps, especially to cover the needs of children under five years and pregnant women.

UGANDA

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV): In Adjumani, the lack of safe spaces for provision of counselling to SGBV survivors remained the main challenge.

Nutrition: In Rhino Camp, the supplementary feeding programme registered high defaulter rates exceeding the standard of 15 per cent. Nutrition partners are working to strengthen the engagement of village health teams in following up and tracking enrolled refugees.

WASH: In Adjumani, inadequate facilities for management of soil waste (sanitary land fields and sludge drying bed/lagoon) and the lack of cesspool emptier in spite of many lined latrines in schools, health centres and markets have been identified as serious gaps. Other challenges included: the heavy rains/floods that are damaging WASH facilities particularly affecting Boroli settlement; the deteriorating condition of Agojo road hampers the timely water trucking to the settlement and the frequent breakdown of boreholes vs the high costs of borehole spares (U2 Stainless steel & stainless steel rods) following change in government policy (All boreholes to be installed with stainless steel or Upvc pipes).

Financial Information

UNHCR is very grateful for the financial support provided by donors who have contributed to their activities with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds as well as for those who have contributed directly to the operation.

Donors who have contributed to the operation:

- United States of America
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Funding (in million USD)

A total of **299.3 million** has been funded as of 12 December 2017

External / Donors Relations

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2017

United States of America (266 M) | Sweden (76 M) | Private Donors Spain (60 M) | Netherlands (52 M) | United Kingdom (45M) | Norway (41 M) | Private Donors Republic of Korea (29 M) | Japan (25 M) | Denmark (23 M) | Private Donors Italy (19 M) | Australia (19 M) | Private Donors USA (16 M) | Canada (16 M) | Switzerland (15 M) | Private Donors Japan (15M) | France (14 M) | Germany (12 M) | Private Donors Sweden (12 M) | Italy (10 M) |

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LINKS

Regional Data Portal: <http://data.unhcr.org/SouthSudan/regional.php>

UNHCR South Sudan Situation page: <http://reporting.unhcr.org/node/20>

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