

# South Sudan

October 2019

## POPULATIONS OF CONCERN

**297,135**

Number of **refugees in South Sudan**. 92% come from Sudan, 5% from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 2% from Ethiopia, and 1% from the Central African Republic.

**1.46 million**

Number of **internally displaced persons (IDPs)** in South Sudan, 12% of which are staying inside six UNMISS Protection of Civilians sites.

**219,720**

Number of **South Sudanese refugees who have returned** in a self-organized manner (November 2017-October 2019) **2.2 million remain in neighboring countries**

## FUNDING

**\$152.2 million**

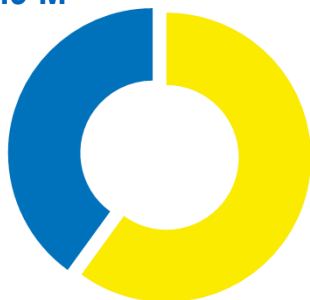
requested for the 2019 operation

39% unfunded

**59.9 M**

61% funded

**92.3 M**



150,000 Sudanese refugees and 50,000 host community members are in immediate need of assistance after flooding intensified in October. © UNHCR/Elizabeth Stuart

## In this issue

- UNHCR and partners **provided emergency assistance to thousands of people in Maban, Upper Nile, after flooding intensified** in early October, submerging large swaths of Bunj town and Doro, Gendrassa, Kaya, and Yusuf Batil refugee camps in murky water. (Page 3)
- South Sudan finalized a plan to **increase access to education for refugees and IDPs** in line with the Djibouti Declaration. UNHCR provided technical support. (Page 5)
- **53,634 people**, including refugees and host community members, **received consultations at UNHCR-supported healthcare facilities**. (Page 8)
- **156 women graduated** from a year-long skills building course in Jonglei. (Page 10)

## Operational Context



UNHCR takes a blood sample from 4-year-old Yasin in October 2019 as part of an annual survey to measure nutrition in Pamir refugee camp, Unity. © UNHCR/Martim Gray Pereira

Armed conflict in South Sudan has declined since the parties to the civil war signed a peace agreement in September 2018; however, implementation of the deal is lagging and the political situation remains fragile. Meanwhile, poor rule of law and easy access to arms has resulted in an increase in inter- and intra-communal violence that continues to displace people. Still, the South Sudanese are hopeful and, despite UNHCR's non-return advisory for refugees, many displaced persons are showing interest in heading home.

At the same time, insecurity in neighboring countries has pushed nearly 300,000 refugees into South Sudan. UNHCR South Sudan supports refugees in 21 camps and settlements across the country, and is heavily involved in aiding IDPs and IDP returnees through the country's protection and camp management clusters.

UNHCR is also working with South Sudan's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission and other partners to monitor spontaneously returning refugees' protection needs, and advocate for the vulnerable among them to be included in existing aid mechanisms.

# Refugee Response

## October Highlights

### UNHCR responds to intensifying flooding in Maban

UNHCR and partners provided emergency assistance to thousands of people in Maban, Upper Nile, after flooding intensified in early October. Refugees and local residents in Bunj town evacuated their homes, balancing beds and bundled belongings on their heads, and congregated on small islands of high ground. The water carved out huge chunks of the road. Crops and livestock were washed away, swamped schools had to be shut down and health services were hobbled. Boreholes flooded, compromising water safety, and 45 percent of latrines were destroyed.

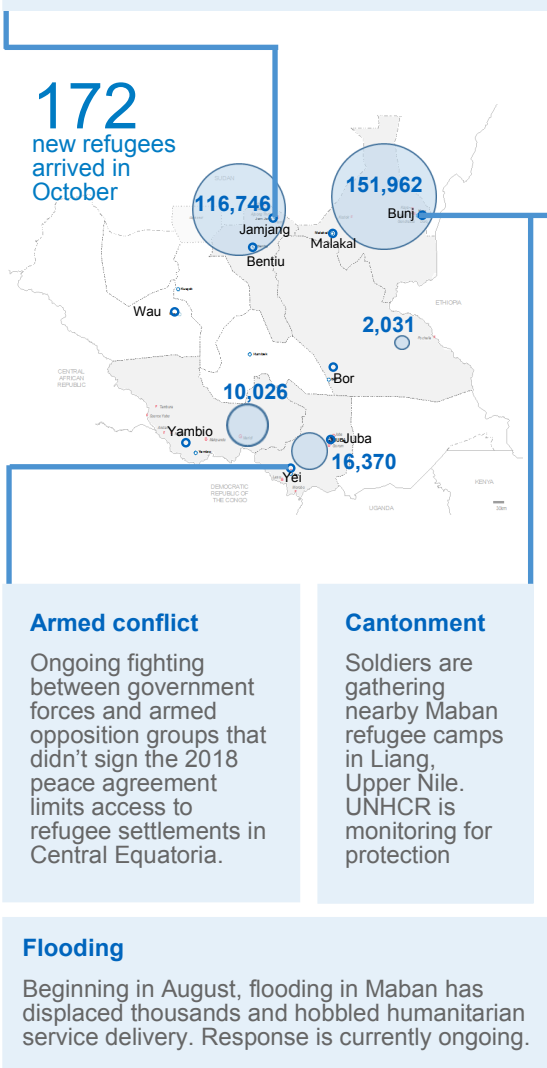
By the end of the month, the flood level had receded, and UNHCR had reestablished access to most affected areas; however, damaged roads and stagnant water continued to hamper service delivery. Key flood-related activities included:

- **Initial Rapid Needs Assessment.** In collaboration with the government and the humanitarian community, UNHCR conducted an Initial Rapid Needs Assessment to ascertain the flood's impact through key informant interviews, focus group discussions and observation.
- **Road and airstrip repair.** The road connecting Bunj to Renk, the "life line" of the town, is impassable between Banketa and Kindwat. Doro airstrip was also severely damaged. To ensure

### KEY CHALLENGES

#### Maintaining the civilian character of asylum

When refugees first fled conflict in Sudan's South Kordofan State in 2011, they settled in Yida. Because of Yida's proximity to the border — just 20 km from Sudan — and the associated protection risks, South Sudan's government has been encouraging refugees to relocate to Ajuong Thok and Pamiir camps since 2016. In September, UNHCR assisted 206 individuals in making the move. However, as of October 46,287 refugees remained in Yida.







Children play in flood water at Bankuman Primary School in Maban, Upper Nile, in October. © UNHCR/Joshua Atem

supply delivery, UNHCR and partner Action Africa Help International repaired the airstrip and 2.1 km of road. On 23 October, the airstrip re-opened for the emergency delivery.

- **Food support for refugee and host communities.** UNHCR and WFP, coordinating with partners, the Commission for Refugee Affairs, and the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission distributed food to affected members of the host community in 75 Bomas northeast of Maban and Doro Refugee Camps. Distributed food items included: cereal, beans, vegetable oil, Plumpy Nut, and salt.
- **Emergency shelter and non-food items.** Since the reopening of the airstrip, UNHCR has airlifted 175 metric tons of core relief items, such as plastic tarpaulins, family tents, blankets, sleeping mats, kitchen sets, jerry cans and buckets, to Maban for distribution.

- **Disease prevention.** As part of the response to the public health impacts of the flooding, UNHCR also airlifted various essential medical and nutritional items to Maban, and is working with the World Health Organization, the Ministry of Health, Action Africa Help International, UNICEF, and partners to prepare for potential outbreaks. UNHCR and partners Relief International and the International Medical Corps, reached 14,135 persons of concern with disease prevention messaging.
- **Education services reestablished.** UNHCR and partner Lutheran World Federation, with support from refugee teachers, community leaders and community-based structures, reopened 17 out of 24 primary schools (8 in Doro, 4 in Gendrassa and 5 in Kaya). UNHCR and partners are working to assist displaced families who are occupying the remaining seven schools in Yusuf Batil

Refugee Camp to clear the way for classes. UNHCR partner Jesuit Refugee Service also resumed its in-service teacher training programme, which is working with 42 members of the host and refugee communities to obtain certification.

### Asylum-seekers released from detention

UNHCR, in partnership with the Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA), secured the release of 188 asylum-seekers in urban Juba after they were detained by the Directorate for Nationality Passports and Immigration. The asylum-seekers, which included 15 women and two minors, got caught up in an anti-illegal immigration exercise. Asylum-seekers and refugees are not subject to immigration laws as their entry, stay, and protection is governed by the 2012 Refugee Act. UNHCR and CRA held a series of meetings with the Ministry of Interior and, during the last week of October, the number of asylum-seekers detained dropped significantly (from 78 during week three to 11 in week four).

### South Sudan pledges to end statelessness

South Sudan on 7 October made five pledges aimed at ending statelessness during a UNHCR Executive Board High-Level Segment in Geneva, Switzerland. Ahead of the segment on 3 October, UNHCR, in collaboration with the Directorate for Nationality Passports and Immigration and the Office of the National Coordinator for the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, organized a round table on ongoing efforts on addressing statelessness. Sixteen members of the three Transitional National Legislative Assembly attended.

### South Sudan finalizes plan to integrate refugees, IDPs into national education system

A task force established by South Sudan's Ministry of General Education and Instruction, with support



## KEY PROTECTION ACHIEVEMENTS

### SGBV PREVENTION

**64** new sexual- and gender-based violence cases identified and supported

**7,602** refugees received training in the prevention of SGBV and sexual exploitation and abuse

**8,810** refugees were provided with information on referral pathways and available services for SGBV survivors

### ACCESS TO JUSTICE

**75** detention monitoring visits conducted

**32** traditional court sessions monitored

**356** refugees reached through educational campaign on housing, land and property rights

### CHILD PROTECTION

**12** separated/unaccompanied children identified and provided case management services

**1** separated/unaccompanied child reunited with biological parents

**438** at-risk children provided food or material assistance, such as clothing, blankets or mosquito nets

**6,619** children participated in recreational activities in child friendly spaces

from UNHCR and partner Lutheran World Federation, finalized a plan to integrate displaced persons into the national education sector during a 28-29 October workshop. The plan, called the National Education Response Plan for Refugees, Returnees, IDPs and Host Communities in South Sudan, was developed in response to the 2017 Djibouti Declaration, which calls on IGAD member states to take concrete steps to ensure inclusive and equitable educational access for displaced persons. UNHCR has been working with government partners on the plan since April. Among other things, the three-year, \$56 million plan aims to:

- Improve access to primary and secondary school for displaced persons by building 120 new schools to replace those destroyed in the war, and renovating or 500.
- Establish mobile libraries and learning centers to enable 20,000 over-age, out-of-school and hard-to-reach IDPs, refugees and returnees to complete primary school.

**Jamjang refugee camps to get two new nutrition stabilization centers.** In order to improve the quality of care for sick malnourished children, UNHCR and partner Action Africa Help International kicked off construction on two new stabilization centres in Jamjang, Unity State. The centers are expected to be complete in four weeks.

**Donated computers enhance education.** UNHCR and partner World Vision donated 10 computers in October to enhance education in Makpandu refugee settlement in Western Equatoria. Beneficiaries included secondary schools, primary schools, a youth association, and the examination unit of the

Gbudue State Ministry of Education, Gender and Social Welfare. Developing computer skills is a mandatory part of South Sudan's educational curriculum.

**Refugee leaders elected in Maban.** Gendrassa, Yusuf Batil and Kaya refugee camps, with support from UNHCR and South Sudan's Commission for Refugee Affairs, peacefully elected new leaders through a democratic process. Female representation was noted.

**Refugees boost income through tree seedling sales.** Refugee-women-run nurseries in Maban sold 4,912 fruit tree seedlings to agencies and community members in October. UNHCR and partner Relief International support the tree nurseries to help women develop agricultural skills and augment their income. The trees, when planted, will provide food for the community and offset environmental damage from firewood collection.

## Ensuring Access to Basic Services

Enabling refugees to meet their basic needs is an integral part of protection as it decreases the risk for negative coping mechanisms. As such, UNHCR employs a multi-sector response, working with government and partners to ensure refugees are sheltered and fed, and have access to education, health care, and adequate water and sanitation services. Key sectoral highlights are listed below. ( UNHCR strives to strengthen inter-communal bonds, numbers include both refugees and host community members unless specified.)



UNHCR and the two County Commissioners of North East and South West Maban, posing with the 2019 DAFI university scholarship recipients (Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative) © UNHCR/Daniel Thon



### EDUCATION

**73,250** students enrolled in UNHCR-supported primary schools

**82** percent of enrolled students attended school in October

**458** refugee teachers benefitted from in-service training in October



### FOOD SECURITY & NUTRITION

**67,077** refugees received food or cash for food during World Food Programme general distributions in Jamjang camps

**6,833** people received counseling on best practices in infant and young child feeding

**4,155** children aged 6 -23 months benefitted from programming to prevent or treat malnutrition

**2,757** pregnant and breastfeeding women benefitted from programming to prevent or treat malnutrition

**1,012** received care through the Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition programme.

**661** new cases of acute malnutrition were identified and referred for treatment



## HEALTH

**62,916** people consulted with healthcare professionals at UNHCR-supported facilities; 37% of those patients came from the host community

**1,630** new patients admitted for inpatient care; 36.4% of those patients came from the host community

**504** patients living with HIV/AIDs received anti-retroviral treatment

**62** pregnant women in programming to prevent the transmission of HIV/AIDs from mother to child

**196** patients were received treatment for Tuberculosis

**772** babies were delivered at UNHCR-supported emergency obstetric and newborn care facilities

**37,507** refugees were reached through health education initiatives

## SHELTER & NON-FOOD ITEMS

**452** people received core relief items, including blankets, sleeping mats, soap, buckets, mosquito nets, and kitchen sets

**562** families provided with emergency shelters or shelter materials, such as tents and plastic sheeting

**7,474** women and girls provided feminine hygiene kits

## WATER & SANITATION

**17.45** liters of safe water were provided per refugee per day in October

**75,356** people were reached through hygiene promotion campaigns

**143** household latrines were constructed, bringing the number of persons per latrine to 18

## ACCESS TO ENERGY

**1,397** fuel efficient stoves produced by refugees

**6,180** tree seedlings distributed for planting

**4,912** tree seedlings raised and sold in refugee-run nurseries



# IDP Response

## October Highlights

### UNHCR responds to Jonglei floods

UNHCR joined the inter-agency flood response in Jonglei.

- UNHCR and partner Humanitarian Development Consortium participated a joint rapid assessment in Duk, where heavy flooding in the Payuel, Patuenoi, and Poktap areas has impacted 1,870 households. Crops and houses have been destroyed and latrines have collapsed. The assessment will inform the response.
- UNHCR supported a high-level mission to Pibor to help mobilize funding to assist an estimated 156,000 people, including internally displaced persons, who have been impacted by flooding in the area. Lack of shelter is the most urgent need, but overcrowding has also heightened other risks, such as exposure of women and girls to sexual and gender-based violence.

### IDPs in Bor seek to return home

UNHCR continued its work with the Bor Solutions Working Group in Jonglei to help IDPs who wish to return home. Key activities included:

- In October 2019, 20 households (63 individuals) approached UNHCR protection desk seeking support to relocate from the UNMISS Bor Protection of Civilians (POC) site to various areas in South Sudan. Most of

the IDPs want to go to Unity State; however, others requested to return to Fangak and Eastern Equatoria. The registered IDPs seek humanitarian support for transportation, food, and basic items to help them resettle.

- In October 2019, UNHCR joined the Protection Cluster and Solutions Working Group on a post-return monitoring mission to Fangak to monitor the situation of 308 IDPs who were recently assisted to return to the area. The IDPs, who approached the protection desk in the UNMISS Bor POC site to request assistance, arrived safely and were warmly received by the community and humanitarian partners on the ground. The security situation was stable, and IDPs reported being “happy to be home.” However, some families had opted to leave Fangak for Malakal or other locations to reunify with family members.
- The UNHCR protection desk at the Bor Protection of Civilians site recorded self-organize departures to various locations in South Sudan. Five households departed, most of them citing the desire to reunite with family.

### IDPs assisted in reclaiming property in Bentiu

During the reporting period, UNHCR, together with Shelter/NFI partners, met the Bentiu town Mayor to discuss a pilot project aims to assist IDPs who own plots of land



## KEY PROTECTION ACHIEVEMENTS

### SGBV PREVENTION

**94** IDPs received training in the prevention of SGBV and sexual exploitation and abuse

**1,243** IDPs were provided with information on available services for SGBV survivors

### ACCESS TO JUSTICE

**178** IDPs reached through educational campaigns on housing, land and property rights

### CHILD PROTECTION

**52** IDPs received training on child rights and protection principles

in Bentiu town but cannot afford to construct their own houses. UNHCR and DRC registered 264 households of IDPs who own land but are staying in Kalibalak collective centers in Bentiu town. The list has been submitted to the Bentiu mayor to verify plot ownership through the State Ministry of Physical Infrastructure. Following verification, UNHCR and DRC will provide shelter support

### 973 families request return assistance in Juba IDP sites

UNHCR protection desks continue to receive requests from IDPs in the UNMISS Juba Protection of Civilians sites and the Mahad, Don Bosco and Mangateen IDP collective sites for assistance voluntarily returning or relocating. To date, 973 households (3,212 individuals) have registered intentions to return/relocate to various areas across South Sudan. This information will feed into the activity of the Central Equatoria Solutions Working Group, which is co-led by UNHCR and UNDP.

**Self-reliance courses launch in Upper Nile.** On 22 October, UNHCR launched mobile phone maintenance and carpentry courses in Malakal. Twenty youth, including

12 men and 8 women, are participating in the mobile phone maintenance course and 20 youth are attending the carpentry workshop. The course, which includes IDPs and residents of Malakal town, is intended to encourage peaceful coexistence in addition to promoting skills building and self-reliance. Every trainee will attend 36 sessions.

**156 women graduate from skills building course in Jonglei.** One-hundred-and-fifty-six women and girls graduated from a one-year skills building course supported by UNHCR and partner INTERSOS in Lankein, Jonglei. The course included bedsheet decoration, embroidery, beadwork and more. The project is intended to increase women's empowerment.

**IDP profiling.** UNHCR profiled 975 households/5,197 individuals in Western Equatoria in seven locations (Rimenze, Makpandu, Bazumburu, James Diko, Nzara, Tambura, Maridi).

# Refugee Return Monitoring

## October Highlights

### South Sudan finalizes National Framework for Return, Resettlement and Reintegration

UNHCR supported South Sudan in rolling out its National Framework for Return, Resettlement and Reintegration on 2 October, along with the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, and partner humanitarian agencies. UNHCR provided technical support throughout the framework's development.

### Returnees planting crops in Magwii and Torit Counties

From 13-19 October, UNHCR and partner South Sudan Older People's Organization (SSOPO) traveled to Magwii and Torit Counties in Eastern Equatoria to assess conditions in areas of returns. About 10,893 South Sudanese refugee returnees from Uganda have settled in Torit, 4,281 have settled in Agoro, and 2,232 have settled in Pajok. A majority of the spontaneous refugee returnees have resettled and started cultivating crops. However, movement across the border continues to be fluid as returnees seek access to health care, and education in Uganda. UNHCR, in collaboration with humanitarian actors, has initiated multi-sectoral community projects to strengthen resilience.

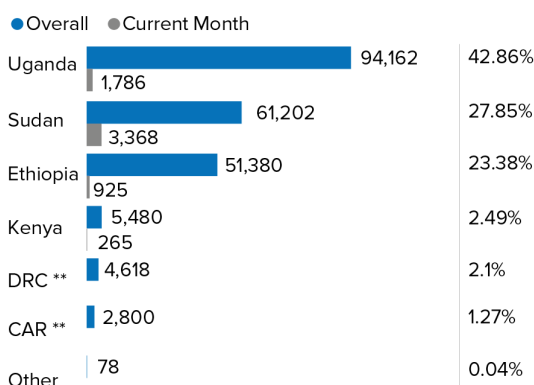
**Protection monitoring mission.** UNHCR, the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC), and partner Women Development Group visited refugee returnee settlements



# 6,344

refugees returned to South Sudan in a self-organized manner in October 2019

#### Spontaneous refugee returnees by Country of Asylum



\*\* CAR: Central African Republic; DRC: Democratic Republic of Congo

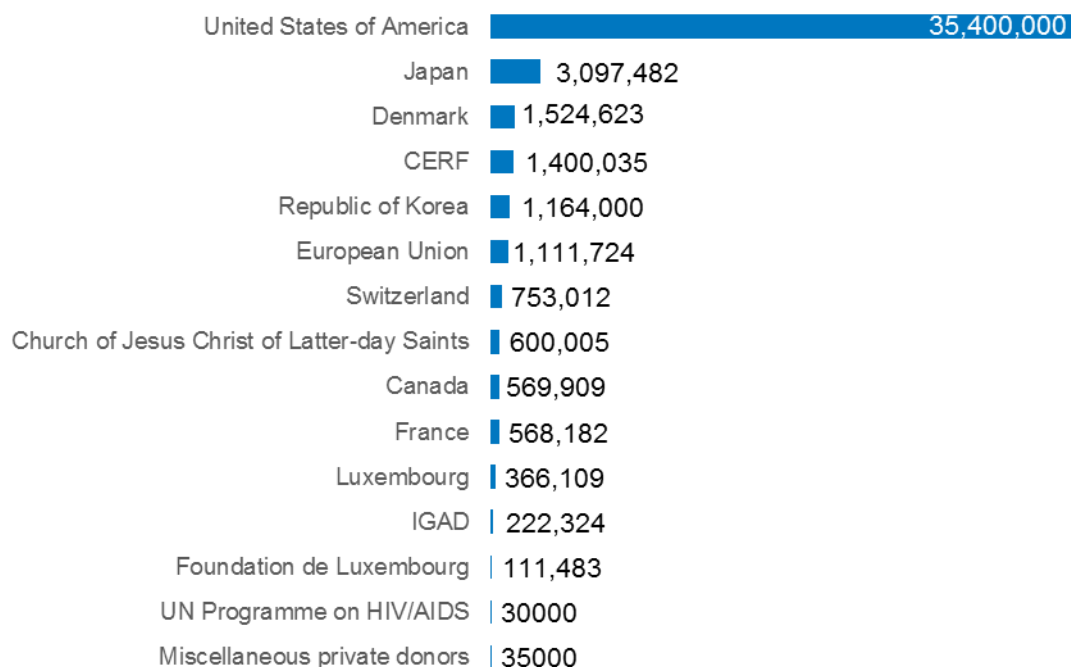
in Warrap and Lakes from 21 to 25 October. Returnee communities reported difficulties accessing their places of origin, such as Gok Machar and Aweil North, due to poor road access, flooding and the presence of armed elements. Basic services are lacking in most return areas, but most of the returnees said they planned to stay in South Sudan regardless.

#### Government capacity development.

UNHCR provided RRC with six tablets and six bicycles to support refugee return monitoring at six border points (Gangura in Yambio, Maridi, Ezo, Source Yubu, Dingimo and Bamboli) in Tambura State.

# Financial Update

## 2019 funding received for South Sudan Operation in USD



**Contributions earmarked for the South Sudan Situation (including neighboring countries hosting refugees):** United States of America 27.1 million | Private donors Australia 10.2 million | Germany 9.1 million | Canada 4.6 million | Sweden 3.1 million | Private donors Germany 3.1 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 2.1 million | Norway | Private donors

**Unearmarked contributions to UNHCR's global operation:** Sweden 99.8 million | Private donors Spain 67.8 million | United Kingdom 44.6 million | Norway 44.5 million | Netherlands 37.5 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 31 million | Germany 26.7 million | Denmark 24.4 million | Private donors Japan 18.4 million | Switzerland 15.1 million | Private donors Italy 14.2 million | France 14 million | Private donors USA 11.7 million | Private donors Sweden 11.4 million | Ireland 10.2 million

Algeria | Argentina | Australia | Austria | Azerbaijan | Belgium | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Indonesia | Islamic Republic of Pakistan | Kuwait | Liechtenstein | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Portugal | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Slovakia | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Turkey | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Private donors

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