

# SOUTH SUDAN - Regional RRP

## 2019 Mid Year Report

January - June 2019



### 2019 KEY FIGURES

**2.2 M**

SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEES  
(JUNE 2019)

**US\$ 1.4B**

REQUIREMENTS IN 2019

**21%**

FUNDING RECEIVED (JUNE  
2019)

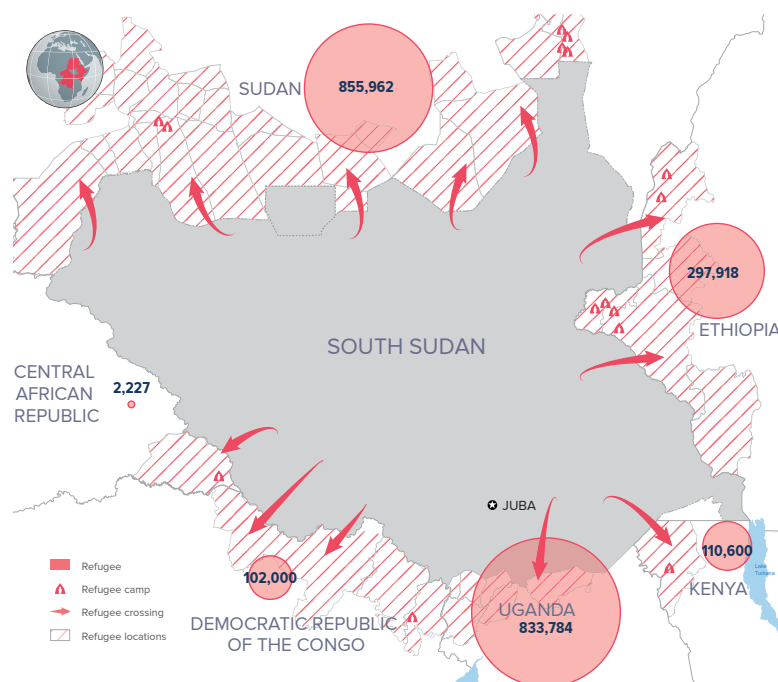
**95**

RRRP PARTNERS INVOLVED

### REGIONAL RRP OVERVIEW

As the South Sudanese refugee response entered its sixth year in 2019, the DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda continued to host over 2.2 million South Sudanese refugees as of 30 June 2019. The 2019 – 2020 South Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP) brought together 95 partners requesting USD 1.4 billion to meet the life-saving and resilience needs of South Sudanese refugees in the region. The RRRP population planning figures were revised downward in May 2019 to reflect updates made to the response plans for both Sudan and Uganda. The Sudan summary plan was updated to ensure greater coherence with the Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), while the Uganda summary plan was updated in light of the results of the population verification completed in late 2018. By mid-2019, agencies had received close to USD 283.5 million, representing just 21 per cent of requirements.

The overall security situation in Sudan, the country hosting the largest number of South Sudanese refugees, deteriorated in June, particularly in Khartoum but also in other States hosting refugees. A five-week nationwide internet shutdown also began on 3 June 2019, with nearly 50 per cent of response partners without internet access. Distribution activities were also delayed in May and June in many locations due to the security situation. In Ethiopia, the integration of the Biometric Identity Management System (BIMS) and transition to Level 3 Registration countrywide continued, with 297,918 South Sudanese refugees registered by the end of June 2019. In the DRC and Uganda, response partners closely monitored the outbreak of Ebola in the DRC, reinforcing Ebola prevention and mitigation activities in refugee-hosting areas.



Between January and June 2019, over 1.27 million South Sudanese refugees received food assistance, 11,500 South Sudanese refugee mothers delivered their babies with the assistance of qualified personnel, and 322,000 South Sudanese refugee children attended early childhood development, primary or secondary school. All five countries of asylum continued to advance the application of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), with efforts to further integrate refugees into national and local development plans, as well as national health and education systems.

However, many South Sudanese refugees faced challenging circumstances in the first half of 2019. Only 50 per cent of unaccompanied and separated children are reported to be in appropriate interim or long-term care. Access to safe drinking water dropped in the DRC, Ethiopia and Uganda and refugees did not regularly receive the standard amount of soap in any of the five response countries. Despite the commitment of RRRP partners to support self-reliance, the majority of South Sudanese refugees rely heavily on humanitarian assistance due to inadequate funding for livelihoods and food security activities.

## 2019 REFUGEE POPULATION TRENDS

As of 30 June 2019, there were 2.2 million South Sudanese refugees in the five main refugee hosting countries. A total 56,297 new refugees South Sudan fled in the first half of 2019, with an average of approximately 9,380 new arrivals per month. This is compared to an average of 8,900 monthly arrivals across 2018, however in 2018 the majority of new refugees arrived in the first half of the year and the rate of new arrivals slowed down in July to December. As in 2018, Uganda and Sudan received the highest number of new arrivals, 24,479 and 13,875 respectively, followed by Kenya (7,975), the DRC (5,055) and Ethiopia (4,913).

In May 2019, a regional Intention Survey was conducted among 6,964

South Sudanese refugees in CAR, the DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda. In the foreseeable future, 42 per cent of South Sudanese refugees surveyed do not plan to return to South Sudan. Of the 38 per cent who indicated they plan to return, 3 per cent plan to return immediately, 1 per cent in the next three to six months, 3 per cent plan to return in the next six to 18 months and 31 per cent plan to return but were undecided or unsure of when to do so. The remaining 20 per cent of respondents were undecided.

## THE SITUATION INSIDE SOUTH SUDAN

The South Sudan Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict, signed in September 2018, remained in effect in the first half of 2019, with a reported reduction in political violence. However small pockets of violence continued and the humanitarian situation remained dire. Over 1.8 million internally displaced persons remained as of 30 June, including 181,096 civilians seeking safety in the UNMISS Protection of Civilian sites. A large proportion of the population rely significantly on live-saving humanitarian assistance and an estimated 6.96 million people (61 per cent of the population) were predicted to face crisis level (IPC Phase 3) acute food insecurity or worse, the highest number of people in South Sudan to ever face such levels of food insecurity.

From November 2017 to June 2019, UNHCR estimates that some 180,000 South Sudanese refugees have spontaneously returned to South Sudan. On 17 April 2019, UNHCR issued an update to its 2015 Position on Returns to South Sudan. Under the current circumstances, UNHCR cannot facilitate, promote, organize or otherwise assist returns to South Sudan.

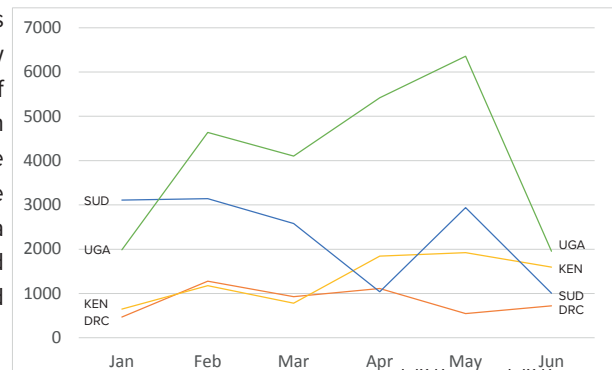
## 2019 MID YEAR ACHIEVEMENTS AND GAPS

### Protection

Refugee registration continued in 2019, aiming at ensuring basic protection against arbitrary arrest, forcible recruitment, detention and refoulement, identification of persons with specific protection needs and referrals to appropriate specialised services. By 30 Jun 2019, 76 per cent of South Sudanese refugees were registered on an individual basis, maintaining the end of 2018 level, with 100 per cent registered in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda, 47 per cent in the DRC and 44 per cent in Sudan. In Ethiopia, the integration of the Biometric Identity Management System (BIMS) and transition to Level 3 Registration, which began in August 2018, continued and was completed in July 2019. In the DRC, registration was completed for camp-based refugees and commenced for the remaining refugees who live in host communities, many of whom have less access to humanitarian assistance. In Sudan, while registration activities were hampered by general insecurity in the country, an additional 33,105 South Sudanese refugees were newly registered and a further 86,011 were verified.

Over 1,511 refugees reported cases of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV), of which 98 per cent received appropriate support, including psychosocial, legal, medical and safety assistance. RRRP partners in Kenya reported that over a third of newly reported cases in the first half of 2019 referred to cases that occurred in earlier years with ongoing ramifications, suggesting increased willingness to report, however overall underreporting remained a major challenge across the region.

## MONTHLY ARRIVALS IN 2019



## RRP FUNDING TRENDS

As of 30 June, RRRP partners had received a total of USD 283.5 million towards the 2019-2020 South Sudan RRRP, representing 21 per cent of total requirements. Partners would like to thank the many donors who have contributed in 2019 so far. However, further funding is urgently needed to meet the humanitarian and resilience needs of South Sudanese refugees. The remaining USD 1.08 billion funding gap continued to have major consequences for refugee families, particularly as RRRP partners reported deterioration against some regional indicators in protection, education and WASH in the first half of 2019.

## Education

Over 322,000 South Sudanese refugee children attended school in the first half of 2019 (data unavailable for Ethiopia). Primary school enrolment was 67.5 per cent as of 30 June, down slightly from 69 per cent at the end of 2018. Regional secondary enrolment increased slightly from 13 per cent to 14.8 per cent in the same period, reaching 53 per cent in Kenya. Students in the DRC were supported to attend secondary school for the first time. Just 1,289 South Sudanese youth in Ethiopia and Kenya had access to tertiary education.

In Sudan, the economic situation had a significant impact on education programming, with delays in activity implementation, partners and schools unable to secure cash, higher dropout rates, and a delayed start to the 2019/2020 school year. However, response partners continued to support refugee education in Khartoum, White Nile, West and South Kordofan, East Darfur, North Darfur and South Darfur States, with the objectives of ensuring safe access to education, increasing school enrolment and decreasing school dropouts.

Across the region, the quality of education provided to South Sudanese refugee children remained hindered by limited educational supplies, insufficient infrastructure, double shifts and high student-to-teacher ratios, as high as 80 students per teacher in Uganda and 191 students per teacher in Ethiopia.

## Food

Over 83 per cent of South Sudanese refugees in need received food assistance in 2019, up from 70 per cent in 2018 (data unavailable for Ethiopia). However, due to underfunding, just 54.8 per cent received the full recommended 2,100Kcal through food rations or cash support and over 13 per cent received no food ration at all. Efforts continued to monetize food assistance where appropriate, with cash distributions reinstated in the DRC after temporarily ceasing following a security incident in late 2018. In Ethiopia, a fresh food voucher program was piloted to increase diet diversification among South Sudanese refugee children aged 6 to 35 months, at a time when good nutrition is paramount for healthy growth and development.

The vast majority of South Sudanese refugees continue to remain heavily dependent on food and nutrition assistance, with few being able to provide for themselves due to a lack of land, seeds, equipment or other livelihoods support.

## Health and Nutrition

Across the region, over 1.4 million health consultations were provided in areas hosting refugees, with over 600,000 consultations provided to host communities. Some 88 per cent of pregnant South Sudanese refugee women gave birth with assistance from qualified personnel (up slightly from 86 per cent in 2018). In the DRC, following a confirmed case of Ebola in Aru territory, RRRP partners reinforced Ebola prevention and mitigation activities, including capacity training for health staff, mass information

## PROTECTING, EDUCATING AND PROVIDING FOR SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEE CHILDREN

Regionally, over 1.4 million South Sudanese children remained in exile in the region in 2019, representing 65 per cent of the refugee population. As of 30 June 2019, there were 62,000 children registered with specific protection needs, including almost 43,000 unaccompanied and separated children, however these figures do not include refugee children in Ethiopia, where the figures are under revision following the Level 3 verification. In the remaining four countries of asylum (the DRC, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda), 32 per cent of children with specific protection needs received individual case management and 50 per cent of unaccompanied and separated children were reported to be in suitable interim or long-term alternative care. In the DRC, children with disabilities, victims of physical abuse and child spouses have not received any direct support in 2019 due to lack of funds and staff.

Regionally, access to primary education decreased slightly for registered South Sudanese refugee children, from 69 per cent in 2018 to 67.5 per cent by mid-2019. However this does not include the many unregistered South Sudanese refugee children in Sudan, where much lower percentages of children are estimated to be in school. Very few older South Sudanese refugee children had access to secondary school, with enrolment levels at just 14.8 per cent.

At the same time, hunger remained a major challenge for many South Sudanese refugee children in the first half of 2019. The prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition among children six months to five years old was 16 per cent in Sudan, 13.5 per cent in Ethiopia, 9 per cent in Kenya, and 6 per cent in the DRC (data unavailable for Uganda). Many children faced the risk of poor physical and mental development due to the high prevalence of anaemia, considered of critical public health significance in the DRC (59 per cent), Kenya (56 per cent), Sudan (43 per cent) and Ethiopia (40.5 per cent).

campaigns and awareness sessions for refugees, host communities, local authorities and community leaders. Further funding is needed to cover all health zones hosting South Sudanese refugees. In Uganda, 74 health facilities received assistance from RRRP partners. Efforts continued to improve integration of humanitarian health services into the government health care system and the Ministry of Health launched on 25 January 2019 the Uganda National Health Integrated Response Plan for Refugees and Host Communities (2019-2024) on 25 January 2019 which aims to bridge humanitarian and development programming. In Ethiopia, RRRP partners focused on enhancing the quality of health services, with balanced score card assessments and follow up conducted, while the new tablet-based Health Information System was rolled out to enhance data management and improve disease surveillance.

South Sudanese refugees continued to face a number of key challenges in relation to health and nutrition in the first half of 2019. In Sudan, refugees were increasingly unable to afford health services in underserved out-of-camp locations and urban areas where they rely on public health facilities. In the DRC, lack of funding limited the nutritional supplements available for children and pregnant and breastfeeding women. In Kenya, the health system was further strained by drought affecting the surrounding host community, leading to increased demand for health and nutrition services. In Ethiopia, recurrent ethnic tension affected access to secondary health services in Gambella, as well as 24/7 health services in most camp health facilities.

### Livelihood

RRRP partners continued to prioritise the livelihoods response in 2019, despite ongoing underfunding. In the DRC, 7,011 hectares of arable land were made available by local authorities for South Sudanese refugees and RRRP partners provided training, seeds and tools to 830 refugee households. In Ethiopia, South Sudanese refugees received support in small scale agricultural activities, goat and poultry rearing, technical and vocational education training, micro-businesses and catering. In Kenya, South Sudanese refugees continued to contribute to some of the 2,500 businesses in Kakuma, representing 30 per cent of all known businesses in Turkana County. RRRP partners expanded and strengthened 11 Village and Loans Associations, injecting an additional Ksh. 1.06 million for credit, and provided cash assistance to establish 224 new businesses in Kalobeyei settlement.

In Sudan, access to livelihoods and employment opportunities remained one of the most pressing concerns of South Sudanese refugees. An increased number of partners engaged in the livelihoods response, with more favourable policies, stronger markets, technical skills training and support with livestock, seeds and agricultural tools. In Uganda, while some progress was made towards supporting new refugee arrivals and vulnerable households, transitioning refugee households from emergency-focused livelihood interventions to more sustainable options remained limited.

### Energy and Environment

In the first half of 2019, over 622,000 new seedlings were planted and some 2,911 hectares of land were reforested in Uganda, Kenya and Sudan in an effort to address environmental degradation, which is a key element in ensuring peaceful co-existence with host communities. In the same three countries, an estimated 40 per cent of registered households had fuel efficient stoves by 30 June 2019. In Ethiopia, an additional 192 hectares were reforested.

## COMPREHENSIVE REFUGEE RESPONSE FRAMEWORK (CRRF)

Three of the five countries hosting South Sudanese refugees have formally rolled out the CRRF, Uganda, Ethiopia and Kenya, while the response in the DRC and Sudan continued to advance on its application, particularly through out-of-camp assistance. In Ethiopia, the Government adopted and promulgated the much-awaited revised Refugee Proclamation No. 1110/2019, which grants more rights to refugees and asylum-seekers, including greater freedom of movement for refugees and refugee participation in local economies. In Kenya, the Kalobeyei Integrated Socio-Economic Development Plan (KISEDIP) was locally launched on 1 April 2019. As a result of inclusion of refugees in County Integrated Development Plans (CIDP), all County draft Bills are now open for refugee public participation and refugees provided their opinions on financial inclusion and water bills. RRP partners further invested in health infrastructure and the Ministry of Education continued to pursue the inclusion of refugees and asylum seekers in the national education system. In Uganda, the implementation of existing government sector plans for education and health for refugee and host communities continued in the first half of 2019 and additional plans are due for completion in the second half of the year, including water and environment, and jobs and livelihoods.

While the DRC and Sudan are not roll-out countries for the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), the strategic approach to out-of-camp assistance follows a similar strategy, with an aim towards improved humanitarian-development nexus to address the additional demand on existing services in refugee hosting areas.

## Shelter

As of 30 June 2019, 91 per cent of South Sudanese refugees in Kenya, 56 per cent in Ethiopia and 43 per cent in the DRC live in semi-permanent or transitional shelter. Accurate data on shelter coverage was not available for refugees in Sudan and Uganda, however many refugee families across the region remain exposed to the elements in dilapidated or emergency shelter intended for short-term use.

In Sudan, 11,000 South Sudanese refugee households received non-food items (NFI) and shelter support. Sustained access to remote refugee locations in Sudan remains the main challenge in the shelter/NFI response. In Uganda, 47 overnight communal shelters for new arrivals were repaired or upgraded and 7,270 new arrival households received a plot of land for housing and cultivation from the Government of Uganda and hosting communities, as well as NFIs and emergency shelter kits. RRRP partners also supported 564 extremely vulnerable households with emergency shelter construction; semi-permanent shelter construction would have been more appropriate but was not possible due to very limited funding. In Kenya, 1,689 households received semi-permanent shelters, while 431 semi-permanent shelters were converted to permanent shelters through a cash based project in Kalobeyei settlement. In the DRC, shelter needs increased due to the new influx of South Sudanese refugees and an emergency relocation strategy was implemented to ensure refugees in border areas were relocated to the refugee settlement.

An estimated 38 per cent of South Sudanese refugees had adequate NFIs in Ethiopia, Kenya and Sudan, with data on coverage in the other countries currently unavailable. In Ethiopia, supply pipeline challenges hampered the distribution of sanitary kits for women and girls.

## WASH

In the first half of 2019, South Sudanese refugees in the region received an average 16.9 litres of water per person per day, with country averages varying from 15L in the DRC and Sudan, 16L in Ethiopia and 17.5L in Uganda and 19.7L in Kenya. Since the end of 2018, access to safe water dropped in the DRC, Ethiopia and Uganda and improved in Kenya and Sudan, however no country met the standard of 20L per person per day.

By 30 June 2018, 27.6 per cent of South Sudanese families had a household latrine, with coverage varying from 6 per cent in Sudan, 17 per cent in the DRC, 34 per cent in Kenya and 62 per cent in Uganda (data unavailable for Ethiopia). The increased family latrine coverage in Uganda, up from 42 per cent in 2018, was the result of intense community engagement and hygiene promotion. In Sudan, host community tensions in White Nile State resulted in the suspension of household latrine construction in several camps, driving widespread open defecation and an increase in latrine usage ratios to above 100 persons per latrine.

Hygiene and sanitation awareness raising activities continued across the region, however the standard for soap distribution of 450 grams per person per month and 700 grams for menstruating women was not met in any country, increasing the risk of disease.

## REGIONAL COORDINATION

The 2019 – 2020 South Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan was launched in December 2019 at the United Nations Office in Nairobi, Kenya. It brings together 95 partners across the five main countries of asylum, including UN agencies, international NGOs and national NGO partners. The response was coordinated by Arnauld Akodjenou, the Regional Refugee Coordinator (RRC) and Special Advisor (SA) to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to ensure an overarching vision and coherent inter-agency engagement across the region. A regional protection and solutions strategy has been developed and will be finalized later in the year. In May, the RRC/SA carried out an advocacy mission to Washington DC, New York and Ottawa to further advocate for and mobilise resources for South Sudanese refugees in the region. The RRC also participated in the High Level Meeting of Ministers on Displacement in the Great Lakes Region hosted by the Government of Uganda, where he advocated for greater support for refugees while expressing appreciation to the host countries. The RRC also continued to advocate for refugees to be involved in the peace process and in the first half of 2019, refugees in Kenya were visited by the Independent Boundaries Commission to get their views on the new state boundaries in the country. Efforts to include refugees in the National Dialogue scheduled for later in the year are underway. The complete list of the 95 partners involved in the 2019-2020 RRRP is provided on the following page.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

**South Sudan Situation Data Portal** - <https://data.unhcr.org/southsudan>

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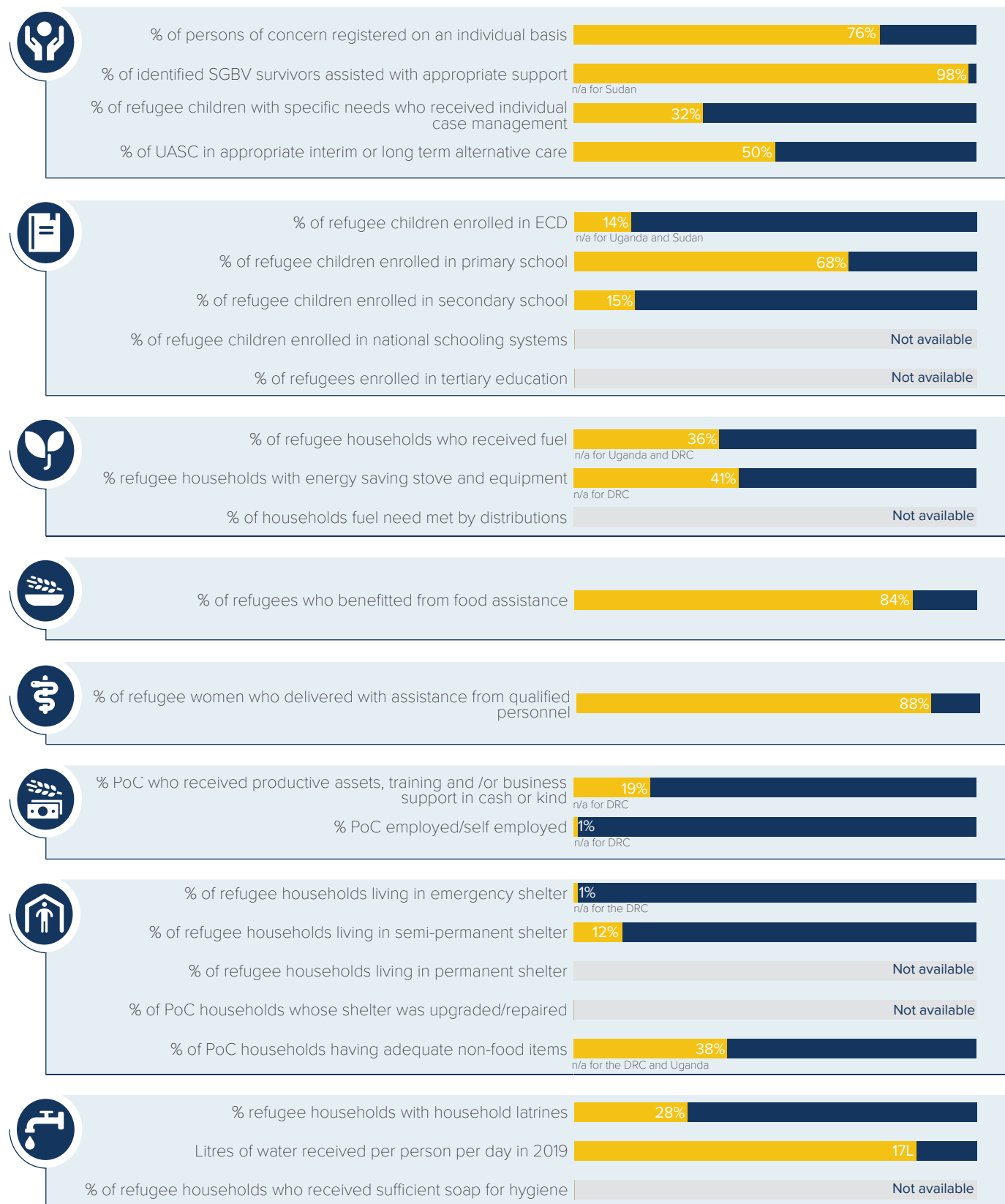
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## REGIONAL RRP PARTNERS

- Action Africa Help International
- Action contre la Faim
- Action For The Needy In Ethiopia
- Adventist Development and Relief Agenc
- African Humanitarian Aid and Development Agency
- African Women and Youth Action for Development
- Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development
- Al Manar Voluntary Organization
- American Refugee Committee
- Association for Aid and Relief, Japan
- Association of Volunteers in Internation Service
- Bethany Christian Service Global, LLC
- Building Resources Across Communities
- Care and Assistance For Forced Migrants
- CARE International
- Caritas Uganda
- Catholic Agency for Overseas Development
- Catholic Organization for Relief and Development Aid
- Catholic Relief Services
- Concern WorldWide
- Cooperazione e Sviluppo
- Cooperazione Internazionale
- DanChurchAid
- Danish Refugee Council
- Don Bosco
- Doctors with Africa
- Enabel
- Film Aid International
- Finn Church Aid
- Finnish Refugee Council
- Food and Agriculture Organization
- Food for the Hungry
- Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit
- Global Aid Hand
- GOAL
- Help Age International
- Humane Africa Mission
- Humanity & Inclusion
- Impact Initiatives
- Inter-church Organization for Development Cooperation
- International Aid Services
- International Medical Corps
- International Organization for Migration
- International Rescue Committee
- Islamic Relief Worldwide
- IsraAid
- Jesuit Refugee Servic
- Johanniter
- Kenya Red Cross Society
- LKAD
- Lutheran World Federation
- Lutheran World Relief
- Malteser International
- Medical Teams International
- Mercy Corps
- Nada El-Azahar Organization
- National Council of Churches of Kenya
- Norwegian Church Aid
- Norwegian Refugee Council
- Oxfam
- Peace Winds Japan
- Plan International
- Prime Skills Foundation
- Refugee Consortium of Kenya
- Relief International
- Right to Play
- Samaritan's Purse
- Sanivation
- Save the Children International
- Self Help Africa
- SNV NDO
- Swiss Contact
- TPO Uganda
- Trocaire
- Tutapona Trauma Rehabilitation
- Uganda Red Cross Society
- Uganda Women for Water and Sanitation
- UMCOR
- United Nations Development Programme
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
- United Nations Office for Project Services
- United Nations Population Fund
- United Peace Organization
- UNWOMEN
- War Child Canada
- War Child Holland
- Water Mission Uganda
- Welthungerhilfe
- WIK
- Windle International Uganda
- World Food Programme
- World Health Organization
- World Vision International
- ZOA

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Note: the indicators are not applicable for Ethiopia.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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