



SOUTH SUDAN SITUATION

REGIONAL UPDATE

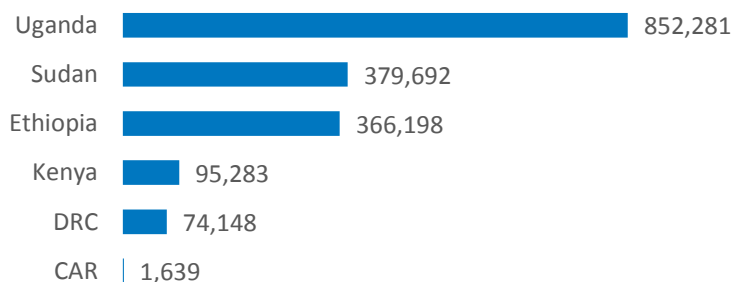
15 - 31 March 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

- Over 102,000 new South Sudanese refugees fled South Sudan into neighbouring countries during the month of March. The rate of arrival into Uganda decreased in March, particularly over the second half of the month, though remained high with 56,852 new South Sudanese refugees, compared to 65,373 in February. Over 28,000 South Sudanese refugees arrived in Sudan in March, with an additional 20,500 refugees newly accessed and arriving since January along the Sudanese border in East Darfur, following a border monitoring mission. In Ethiopia, over 16,000 new South Sudanese refugees arrived in Gambella.
- UNHCR continues to appeal to the international community for urgent and massive support for the thousands of South Sudan refugees in the region. The UNHCR funding appeal for South Sudan situation of US\$781.8 million is only 11 per cent funded.

Population of concern

A total of **1,769,241** South Sudanese refugees as of 31 March 2017



	New arrivals in 2016	New arrivals in 2017 (as of 31 Mar)
Ethiopia	53,661	25,149
Sudan	134,370	85,127
Uganda	489,234	181,170
Kenya	22,501	6,378
DRC	61,125	7,476
CAR	659	0
TOTAL	761,550	305,298

KEY FIGURES

305,298*

South Sudanese arrivals in 2017, based on field reports as of 31 March

1,769,241*

Total South Sudanese refugees as of 31 March 2017 (pre and post Dec 2013 caseload and new arrivals)

265,921

Refugees in South Sudan

1.9 M

Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in South Sudan, including 214,979 people in UNMISS Protection of Civilians site

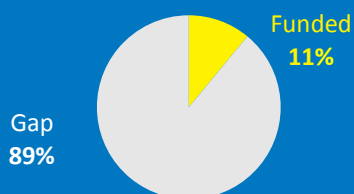
FUNDING

USD 781.8 M

Requested by UNHCR in 2017 for the South Sudan situation

USD 86.5 M

Received by UNHCR as of 4 April 2017



*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.

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 The DRC page of the data portal is also now available, as below:



[DRC](#)



[Ethiopia](#)



[Kenya](#)



[South Sudan](#)



[Sudan](#)



[Uganda](#)

SOUTH SUDAN

Latest developments

- **On Saturday 25 March, six aid workers were killed in an ambush along the Juba-Pibor road in South Sudan.** The Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) David Shearer has urged the government to investigate. At least 80 aid workers have been killed so far in the country since its civil war began in December 2013.
- **In the refugee hideouts in Lasu Payam, Yei, Central Equatoria, the situation is reported to be calm,** however humanitarian assistance to these refugees remains impossible due to insecurity. The refugee leaders in Yei and those in Lasu indicate that a number of refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) are returning to Lasu to harvest or prepare the land for planting.

Achievements and Impact

- **UNHCR registered 615 new arrivals to South Sudan through Yida settlement.** Cumulatively, 3,782 new arrivals have been registered since the beginning of 2017.
- **UNHCR relocated 402 refugees, including 32 refugees previously settled in Yida, and 370 new arrivals to Pamir.** Cumulatively, Pamir is now home to 9,792 refugees since opening in September 2016. UNHCR also issued refugee identity cards for 123 refugees. The exercise will continue to cover all eligible refugees in Pamir camp.
- **In Juba, UNHCR enrolled 122 persons into the Biometrics Identity Management System (BIMS)** during the reporting period as part of the continuous registration activities. UNHCR also issued 113 Asylum Seekers Certificates, 25 ID cards and 22 Proof of Registration documents to asylum seekers and refugees in Juba and renewed 41 ID cards in Gorom refugee settlement.
- **In Gorom refugee settlement, UNHCR facilitated a two-day information session on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and child protection** for 14 members of community protection team.
- **In Ajuong Thok refugee camp, UNHCR and CRA organized a training on Human Rights, SGBV basic principles and civil proceedings** for 16 participants from the Conflict Resolution Committee (CRC) and police.
- **In Doro refugee camp, UNHCR and its partners, in coordination with the Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA), relocated 1,252 individuals (of the 8,000 refugees affected by December 2016 conflict between refugees and host communities) to the new extension site.** Each household received a standard plot of 15 x 20 metres, which is adequate for both backyard gardening and the shelter and sanitation needs of households.
- **In Yirol East, Lakes, UNHCR distributed core relief items to 1,984 IDPs (496 households).** These IDPs fled from Unity's Leer, Mayendit and Panijar counties due to conflict and famine in late February this year.
- **In Bunj, Upper Nile, the final nutrition survey report was released.** The Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) prevalence was 12.5 per cent in Doro, 9.6 per cent in Yusuf Batil, 7.5 per cent in Gendrassa and 12.5 per cent in Kaya. There have been minor improvements in Doro, Gendrassa and Yusuf Batil camps compared to 2015 results, and a slight deterioration in Kaya camp. More efforts are needed for further improvements.

- **In Upper Nile, UNHCR and partners continued implementing various self-reliance initiatives.** In Maban camps, UNHCR and its partners Relief International (RI) and ACTED verified and registered 8,167 refugees for targeted seeds distribution. In Kaya and Gendressa camps, UNHCR and ACTED established ten of the 20 Voluntary Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) groups planned for 2017. In Doro and Yusuf Batil camps, UNHCR and RI facilitated the establishment of seven women's gardening groups and RI established 13 VSLAs groups. In Bunj, UNHCR and RI disbursed in-kind grants to five tea shop entrepreneurs and seven restaurant businesses.

Countries of Asylum

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Achievements and Impact

- **Community protection:** UNHCR worked with the refugee community leadership to identify 15 people (eight men and seven women) who will form the Community Protection Network in Obo camp. This network will notify UNHCR of any specific day-to-day protection concerns.
- **Child protection:** UNHCR and the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) registered 84 unaccompanied and separated children (seven unaccompanied and 77 separated), including seven child heads-of-household (five girls and two boys). Of the 84 children concerned, 77 are living with host families. Through activities at the camp's Child-Friendly Space, UNHCR identified 259 children (116 girls and 143 boys) aged between 3 and 17 who do not have birth certificates. A community services mission is due to visit Obo in two weeks' time in order to respond to the child protection needs.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Latest developments

- **During the reporting period, 1,118 South Sudanese refugees arrived in Meri site (Faradje territory, Haut-Uele province), according to pre-screening conducted by the National Commission for Refugees (CNR).** The rate of arrival decreased in March, with a total of 2,894 new arrivals compared to 4,882 in February. However these figures are issued from pre-screening and may be subject to change after registration. During interviews, refugees reported conflict, including arbitrary executions of civilians, numerous human rights abuses and looting, as their main reasons for flight.

Achievements and Impact

- **Protection:** UNHCR's partner *Association pour le Developpement Social et la Sauvegarde de l'Environnement* (ADSSE) distributed bicycles to SGBV focal points, to enable them to collect information and raise awareness.
- **Education:** UNHCR assisted 360 refugee pupils at Meri site with payment of school fees. In total, 972 children have been assisted, out of a total 1,347 refugee pupils attending primary schools surrounding the site.
- **Health:** UNHCR's medical partner *Association pour le Developpement Economique et Social* (ADES) donated condoms, obstetric material, drugs for sexually transmitted infections, PEP kits and safe delivery kits to the Nyalanya and Aba Health Centres and to Aba General Hospital.
- **Food security and Nutrition:** WFP distributed cash grants of a value of 14,500 Congolese Francs per person to 16,480 refugees in Meri and Biringi sites to purchase food.

ETHIOPIA

Latest developments

- **Between 1 and 31 March 2017, 16,274 South Sudanese refugees arrived in Gambella, Ethiopia,** bringing the total number of new arrivals since September 2016 to 77,874. Some 65 per cent of the total registered new arrivals since September 2016 are children, including 17,709 unaccompanied and separated children. The majority (87 per cent) continue to be women and children, whilst the newly arrived youth population (15 to 24 years old) accounts for 24 per cent. They join the already young refugee population registered in Gambella, where 58 per cent are below the age of 18. Some 85 per cent of the new arrivals originate from Upper Nile State (Nasir, Longechuk or Mathiang, Ulang and Maiwut Counties), while 14 per cent are from Jonglei State (Uror, Akobo and Ayod Counties). The remaining 1 per cent have fled from Unity State. Conflict and food insecurity have been cited as the main reasons for leaving South Sudan.

- **During the reporting period Assosa received 15 new South Sudanese arrivals.** All the new arrivals are registered upon arrival and provided with monthly ration and CRIs including sleeping mat, bucket and blanket. The list of separated children is regularly shared with Save the Children International and the International Rescue Committee upon registration for their follow up.
- **In Okugo camp, the number of asylum-seekers has increased over the last two weeks,** with nearly 700 people arriving from Pochala (Alari) in South Sudan. Food insecurity was mentioned as the main reason for flight.
- **The majority of the newly arrived refugees are accommodated in Nguenyiel camp, which was established in October 2016.** The camp currently hosts 50,337 refugees and has a remaining capacity for 6,663 additional refugees. At the current pace, Nguenyiel camp may reach capacity in April 2017. A new site, in an area bordering both Benishangul-Gumuz and Oromia administrative regions, has been identified and is to be developed as a refugee camp to host new arrivals after Nguenyiel camp reaches its capacity.

Achievements and Impact

- **Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) Response and Prevention:** An average of 20 cases of SGBV are reported on a monthly basis. Individual psychosocial counselling is ongoing. UNHCR and partners regularly organise psychosocial support activities, information sessions, recreational and skill-building activities at the Women Friendly Spaces. During the reporting period, 2,409 women and 1,798 girls attended SGBV awareness raising sessions and a total of 6,370 refugees received information on different types of SGBV and the services availability in the camps. UNHCR partner IMC facilitated a five day training on Caring for Child Survivors of GBV for GBV case workers and Child Protection officers in Gambella.
- **Child Protection:** At Pagak entry point, 1,345 children participated in the child friendly space activities during the reporting period and over 900 youth (15 to 24 years) participated in youth space activities. A total of 1,390 unaccompanied and separated children were identified, registered and relocated to Ngunyyiel refugee camp. In Ngunyyiel, 816 children participated in activities at the two child friendly spaces in Zone A and B, including 11 children living with disabilities. Four children received para-professional psychosocial services. A total of 297 children received case management support; full registration was conducted for 64 identified UASC, 74 vulnerable children received follow up by trained case workers, best interest assessments were conducted for 74 children and 11 children received referrals to the different service providers.
- **To prevent disease outbreaks, as well as to enhance the health of children under the age of 15, vaccination and supplements continue to be provided to refugee children at the entry points.** From 25 to 31 March 2017, 3,361 children under 16 years received the oral polio vaccine, and 3,295 children between six months and 15 years of age received the measles vaccine. Another 1,813 children (6 months to five years of age) received vitamin A supplements and 1,598 children (two to five years of age) received Albendazole for deworming at the Pagak entry point.
- **The Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) programme continues to function in all the camps.** A total of 27 severely malnourished children with medication complications were admitted whilst 188 without medical complications were treated in the Outpatient Therapeutic Programme (OTP). 273 moderately malnourished children were assisted through the Supplementary Feeding Programme (SFP). At the end of the reporting period, 1,366 children were assisted in the CMAM whilst 2,324 were assisted in the SFP. Similarly, 44,395 children and 8,111 pregnant and lactating women were enrolled in the Blanket Supplementary Feeding Program.

KENYA

Latest developments

- **UNHCR continues to receive new arrivals from South Sudan at the Nadapal Transit Centre, at the South Sudan-Kenya border.** A total of 1,418 South Sudanese refugee arrivals were registered in March. Some 58 per cent of all new arrivals in 2017 are from Eastern Equatoria. As of 31 March, there are a total of 1,766 unaccompanied South Sudanese refugee children and 8,467 separated South Sudanese refugee children.
- **The current population of Kalobeyei settlement now stands at 27,285 individuals, including 19,210 South Sudanese refugees.**

Achievements and Impact

- **UNHCR conducted border monitoring at Nadapal on 16, 18, 23, 25 and 28 March.** The missions are carried out to ensure safe and uninhibited access to the asylum territory. New arrivals did not report any ill treatment or extortion by the law enforcement officers and border officials.
- **UNHCR and partners participated in an Interagency Best Interest Determination (BID) coordination meeting on 22 March to discuss ways to streamline BID panel meetings in Kakuma.** As part of one of the recommendations, UNHCR participated in drafting Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for BIDs. The SOPs are currently under review and should be adopted by 4 April.
- **During the reporting period, a total of 42 female refugee teachers sat for the Diploma in Education bridging course exams** at Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST), increasing the number of female teachers undertaking Diploma for Education training.
- **UNHCR and its partner the International Rescue Committee (IRC) launched the piloting of electronic management of health records,** aimed at centralizing the storage of patient records and drug inventory management and moving away from paper based records. This will enable historical medical data of patients, including South Sudanese refugees, to be easily accessible to help with better patient care.
- **The construction of a 14km pipeline from Tarach seasonal river to Kalobeyei settlement was completed,** allowing water to be pumped from boreholes near the river in Kakuma to Kalobeyei. Water piping within Cluster One of Kalobeyei is ongoing. Water trucking is ongoing in Cluster Two and Three. The trucks are now sourcing water from Cluster One, drastically reducing the distance covered by the trucks and allowing greater water delivery to the refugees.

SUDAN

Latest developments

- **Over 28,000 South Sudanese refugees arrived in Sudan in March,** with an additional 20,500 refugees newly accessed and arriving since January along the Sudanese border in East Darfur, following a border monitoring mission. This brings total new arrivals to over 85,000 refugees so far in 2017. It is now estimated that nearly 380,000 refugees have fled to Sudan since December 2013.

Achievements and Impact

- **On 26 March, UNHCR and the government's Commission of Refugees (COR) began household-level registration for approximately 19,500 South Sudanese refugees in Al Lait, North Darfur,** who were identified by the February mission. Over 2,000 refugees have been registered so far, with the exercise to conclude in mid-April. The registration will facilitate the refugees' access to immediate food and NFI assistance.
- **As of 31 March, over 104,000 refugees have been individually biometrically registered across White Nile's eight refugee sites.** UNHCR and partners are working to double the number of registration staff on the ground to speed up the process, given increasing numbers of new arrivals.
- **Ongoing verification of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) and children with special needs continues across all refugee sites in White Nile.** State social workers are conducting the verification in coordination with community volunteers, with over 1,000 UASC and 143 children with special needs verified. Additionally, protection partners have identified 68 foster families to support care arrangements.
- **Individual biometric registration of refugees living at the Kario site in East Darfur was completed on 31 March, with a total of 13,425 individuals (5,565 households) registered.** This includes over 3,300 refugees who arrived in March. A continuous registration process and dedicated biometric team has been established at the site in order to ensure the timely registration of new arrivals who are anticipated in the coming months and to register those who had previously left the site to seek temporary labour opportunities. A registration team has also been deployed to the Al Nimir site in anticipation of the voluntary relocation of refugees planned for early April.
- **In West Kordofan, 12 refugee children were reunified with their families in Khartoum.** Additionally, alternative care arrangements have been finalized for 20 UASC, and eight UASC have been registered for family tracing and reunification (FTR).
- **Following a UNHCR assessment of health clinic facilities at the Kario Site in East Darfur, UNHCR has initiated rehabilitation activities, including the construction of a storage area and pharmacy, as well as improvements to the incinerator, flooring, fencing and water point.** UNHCR is also supporting its local health partner to provide

health and nutrition services at the clinic until June, as an interim solution to immediately address health service gaps at the clinic.

UGANDA

Latest developments

- **The rate of new South Sudanese refugee arrivals to Uganda has decreased but remains high, with a total of 14,308 refugees received between 15 and 31 March**, compared to 42,544 in the first half of the month. In light of the mass influx, the planning projections for the total number of new arrivals into Uganda in 2017 has been revised upwards from 300,000 to 400,000.
- **Refugees arriving in Uganda report that they were forced to flee their homes in fear of the violence that has characterised the conflict in South Sudan**, including indiscriminate and ethnically motivated killings, disappearances, rape, looting of property, arbitrary detention and torture. The refugees also tell of the high cost of living, escalating inflation, food shortages and lack of access to basic services.
- **Refugee report that roads near the border with Lamwo district are obstructed by armed groups**, leading refugees to use uncharted routes and informal border crossings in order to reach safety in Uganda.
- **Refugees interviewed at Elegu Collection Point reported an eruption of fighting between armed forces in Lutaya in Yei County**. Further violence, including attacks on civilians, killings, looting and destruction of property were reported in Palimo and Panyikwara in Magwi County.
- **Refugees coming from Eastern Equatoria also reported violent incidents including killing of civilians and looting of properties in Torit, Wau and Rumbek areas, and refugees from Ganzi reported that armed forces have been forcing people out of their homes**. Some refugees from Eastern, Central and Western Equatoria also reported leaving the country due to hunger, as the prolonged conflict has meant they have been unable to cultivate their land. Many of those who did manage to cultivate failed to get a good yield due to the drought.
- **New arrivals continue to be relocated to Imvepi settlement in Arua district, which is now home to 46,286 South Sudanese refugees**. Site planning and assessment is underway for a new refugee settlement site in Lamwo district, which has the capacity to accommodate 30,000 new refugees.

Achievements and Impact

- **Registration:** In Bidibidi, biometric registration resumed on 21 March in Zone 3, and will continue in Zones 4 and 5. A total of 5,327 individuals were registered and issued with ration cards and documentation. In Palorinya, Level II registration activities are ongoing. A total of 77,389 refugees have been biometrically registered to date.
- **Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) Response and Prevention:** A total of 26 new cases of SGBV were reported in Bidibidi, four in Adjumani and 28 in Palorinya. All survivors were supported with medical, psychosocial and legal services according to their needs. In Bidibidi, 110 adolescent girls attended awareness sessions focused on the dangers of early marriage, and 1,349 refugees were reached through door-to-door SGBV awareness campaigns. In Olijji settlement, Adjumani, 29 community activists were supported with skills training to prevent SGBV in their communities. In Palorinya, 9,103 were reached by SGBV awareness campaigns.
- **Child Protection:** In Bidibidi, 162 children at risk were identified and referred to the appropriate services. In Adjumani, 182 children at risk were identified and supported according to their needs. Meetings were conducted with religious groups in the settlements of Pagirinya and Agojjo, Adjumani, to raise awareness of the risks of orphanages and placing children in unregistered institutional care.
- **Persons with Specific Needs (PSN):** In Bidibidi, both refugees and host community members with specific needs will be supported with unconditional cash grants. Some 867 particularly vulnerable members of the Ugandan host community have been identified to receive the cash transfers.
- **Education:** Primary school enrollment stands at 56,423 in Bidibidi, 21,165 in Palorinya and 36,412 in Adjumani. Secondary enrollment stands at 7,115 in Bidibidi and 2,424 in Palorinya. In Adjumani, the enrolment rate in secondary school is extremely low (4.4 per cent) due to lack of scholarship opportunities and parents' inability to pay school fees. Early Childhood Development (ECD) enrollment stands at 10,041 in Bidibidi, and 12,115 in Adjumani. In Palorinya, 13,383 children have been registered for Early Childhood Development.
- **Health:** Refugees continue to access health services, with respiratory tract infections, malaria and Acute Watery Diarrhea the leading causes of illness in Bidibidi and Adjumani. In Bidibidi, 340 children were immunised against measles, 346 against tetanus, 447 children were given Vitamin A supplements and 686 were dewormed.

- **Food security and nutrition:** In Adjumani, 112 children were discharged from the feeding program, having regained their health. 814 acutely malnourished and 1,270 moderately malnourished children are still enrolled in the program. In Bidibidi, a total of 661 children aged six to 59 months and 128 pregnant and lactating women are enrolled in the feeding programs.
- **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene:** Access to safe water is above the emergency standard of 15 litres per person per day (l/p/d) in Bidibidi (15.6 l/p/d), Palorinya (16 l/p/d) and Adjumani (18 l/p/d). Borehole drilling and repairs are ongoing to increase the availability of safe water. Household latrine coverage stands at 23 per cent in Bidibidi and 73 per cent in Adjumani. In Palorinya, 2,686 people participated in hygiene awareness sessions.

CRITICAL NEEDS AND PRIORITIES

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Shelter: Some 4,700 additional family shelters are needed to cover the needs of refugees at Meri site and evacuate collective shelters.

UGANDA

Protection: Biometric registration must be accelerated. In Palorinya, transport is urgently required to improve security, access to services for persons with disabilities and family tracing. In Bidibidi, expedite construction of latrines for PSN households. In Imvepi, expand services and awareness raising on services for PSNs, strengthen SGBV case management mechanisms and recruit local language translators.

Education: Rehabilitation of eroded school structures and construction of additional schools, especially permanent school structures. Repair and replacement of temporary classrooms damaged by weather. Additional teachers and classroom assistants are required to improve pupil to teacher ratios. Establishment of youth centres in Bidibidi. Distribution of sanitary materials for girls.

Health: Staffing shortfalls must be addressed to increase the number of skilled health workers. Construction of permanent health infrastructure in locations with tented health facilities. Reliable solar lighting at health facilities to ensure provision of health services at night. Additional stocks of anti-malarial drugs, vaccines and other medical supplies. Scale up HIV testing and prevention.

Food Security and Nutrition: Address challenges in the food pipeline to prevent further delays in food distribution. In Bidibidi, ongoing construction of nutrition units in health facilities. In Imvepi, temporary shelters at distribution sites to protect vulnerable refugees from weather conditions, upgrade roads, establish permanent food storage facilities and map distribution sites.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: Improved latrine coverage at household level and supply of buckets and jerry cans in Bidibidi. Additional boreholes, water tanks and communal latrines in Palorinya. In Imvepi, explore high water gravity system, establish a fuel station at Imvepi base and continue to monitor water quality. Recruitment of additional hygiene promoters.

Shelter, Infrastructure and Distribution: In Palorinya, replenishment of stocks of soap for handwashing, cleaning of water storage containers, and sanitary materials for women and girls of reproductive age are urgently required. In Imvepi, ensure PSN shelters are accessible for water, sanitation and hygiene facilities.

Laura Swanson, Associate Information Management Officer (Reporting), swanson@unhcr.org, Tel: +254 20 422 2705

Wendy Rappeport, Senior External Relations Officer, rappepor@unhcr.org, Cell: +41 (0)79 881 9183

Links:

For more information please visit: <http://data.unhcr.org/SouthSudan/regional.php>