



SOUTH SUDAN SITUATION

REGIONAL UPDATE

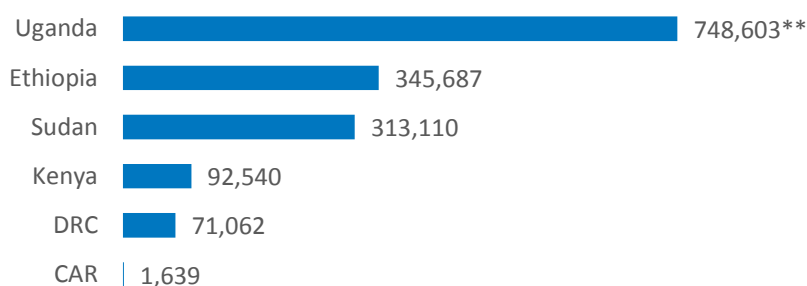
1 – 15 February 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

- High numbers of South Sudanese refugees continue to flee South Sudan to neighbouring countries.** In the first half of February, over 60,000 new arrivals were reported in asylum countries, including some 48,000 arrivals to Uganda where the daily arrival rate peaked at 6,765 on 1 February. Refugees report that fire is being used to clear the bush in South Sudan and the population have been urged to move to towns and cities, with anyone found in the countryside being charged with supporting opposing groups.
- In Sudan, UNHCR is working with local authorities to verify arrivals figures after reports of over 20,000 new South Sudanese refugee arrivals between 1 and 26 February.** The initial population planning figures anticipated 60,000 new arrivals to Sudan in 2017, which will likely be exceeded if the currently high rate of refugee influx witnessed to White Nile, South and West Kordofan and East Darfur continues unabated.

Population of concern

A total of **1,572,641** South Sudanese refugees as of 15 February 2017*



| | New arrivals in 2016 | New arrivals in 2017 (as of 15 Feb) |
|--------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Ethiopia | 53,661 | 4,865 |
| Sudan | 134,370 | 19,079 |
| Uganda | 489,234 | 106,244 |
| Kenya | 22,501 | 2,719 |
| DRC | 61,125 | 4,390 |
| CAR | 659 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 761,550 | 137,297 |

** As of 17 February 2017

KEY FIGURES

137,297*

South Sudanese arrivals in 2017, based on field reports as of 15 Feb

1,572,641*

Total South Sudanese refugees as of 15 Feb 2017 (pre and post Dec 2013 caseload and new arrivals)

260,868

Refugees in South Sudan

1.853 M

Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in South Sudan, including 223,994 people in UNMISS Protection of Civilians site

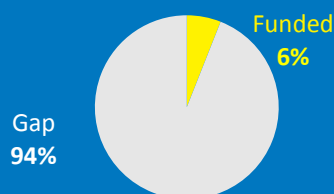
FUNDING

USD 781.8 M

Requested by UNHCR in 2017 for the South Sudan situation

USD 47.9 M

Received by UNHCR as of 28 Feb 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



[Ethiopia](#)



[Kenya](#)



[South Sudan](#)



[Sudan](#)



[Uganda](#)

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

SOUTH SUDAN

Latest developments

- **In Doro refugee camp, UNHCR and partners completed the verification exercise of all the 9,000 displaced Sudanese refugees.** The verification identified the main challenges faced by the refugees and Persons with Specific Needs that require follow-up, including shelter, health and water.
- **Thousands of people continue to be displaced from areas in and around Kajo-Keji, Central Equatoria, due to ongoing insecurity caused by fighting between government and opposition forces.** There are currently some 30,000 people who were previously displaced from other locations in Central Equatoria sheltering in three internally displaced persons' sites in Liwolo area, outside of Kajo-Keji.
- **In Ezo County, Western Equatoria, the Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA) registered 102 households (297 refugees) from Democratic of Republic of the Congo (DRC) fleeing from fresh attacks by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).** The refugees have reportedly fled from Mogoroko, Ngbamunga, and parts of Kpanangbara. The refugees told the CRA that LRA rebels killed two DRC soldiers and their wives, abducted many people and looted properties. The new arrivals are staying with refugees who had returned to the settlement in Ezo and with the host community. The CRA also reported a total of 966 households (2,809 individuals) still residing in Ezo county before the most recent arrivals. Since fighting broke out in Ezo county in 2015, UNHCR has not had access to the refugee camp in Ezo, with the camp officially closed in February 2016.
- **In Juba, South Sudan Government caseworkers conducted their first refugee status determination interviews** for asylum-seekers seeking protection in South Sudan, an essential step towards the establishment of South Sudan's asylum claim adjudication system to determine refugee status. Prima facie status still applies for individuals from Blue Nile and South Kordofan.

Achievements and Impact

- **In Unity, UNHCR identified eight new cases of Sexual Gender-based Violence (SGBV) in Ajuong Thok and one case in Pamir refugee camps.** Cumulatively, 32 cases recorded have been recorded in the two camps in 2017. UNHCR conducted 76 advocacy intervention sessions to raise awareness on SGBV, including 56 sessions in Ajuong Thok camp and 20 sessions in Pamir. A total of 235 sessions have been held in 2017.
- **In Ajuong Thok refugee camp, UNHCR reunited 277 children (135 boys and 142 girls) with their biological parents.** UNHCR have placed 347 children in non-relative foster care arrangements since the beginning of 2017.
- **In Gorom refugee settlement, Central Equatoria, UNHCR conducted a one-day training on child rights and national child protection laws** for refugee teachers to ensure a safe learning environment for refugee children.
- **In Bentiu and Rubkona towns, Unity, UNHCR and cluster partners Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and UNICEF conducted a protection assessment to identify vulnerable IDPs.** The assessment identified 69 households (301 individuals) who need material support and UNICEF identified seven separated children.
- **In Yei town, Central Equatoria, UNHCR partner UMCOR recorded seven cases of SGBV among the IDPs, including cases of domestic violence.** All victims were supported with medical care and psychosocial counseling. As a result of the general insecurity in Yei, access to legal support is difficult.

- **UNHCR relocated 944 refugees from Yida settlement to Pamir camp in the first half of February.** Pamir is now home to a total 8,342 refugees. Upon arrival, refugees received core relief items and residential plots.
- **UNHCR conducted a protection monitoring mission to Pochalla, Jonglei, state to monitor the protection situation.** UNHCR registered ten new-born babies, bringing the population to 2,720 refugees.
- **In Makpandu refugee settlement, Western Equatoria, UNHCR partner World Vision International (WVI) distributed non-food items (NFIs) to 2,412 refugees.**
- **UNHCR facilitated the relocation by air of 43 vulnerable Sudanese refugees from Juba to Ajoung Thok camp.** The refugees were displaced from Lasu settlement due to insecurity in September 2016.
- **School enrollment is ongoing in refugee camps across the country in preparation for the new school year.** In Maban county, Upper Nile, the 2016 / 2017 Primary 8 / Level 4 final exam results, released by the Department of Education, indicate that 14 of the 20 top students in the region are from schools in the camps in Maban.
- **In Yusuf Batil refugee camp, Upper Nile, health workers completed the Tetanus Toxoid (TT) immunization targeting 8,043 women of reproductive age** as part of the government's campaign for the Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus Elimination (MNTE). The campaign is going on Kaya camp.

Countries of Asylum

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Latest Developments

- **January's biometric verification exercise confirmed that there are a total 1,639 South Sudanese refugees in the country.** This figure reflects the number currently being assisted in Obo and follows reported returns to South Sudan by the small number of refugees who had previously chosen to remain in Bambouti rather than relocating to Obo.
- **In early February, the Senior Protection Officer (SGBV) conducted a mission to Obo in order to train staff, partners, and refugee committees.** A number of issues were raised in discussions with South Sudanese refugees, including: child marriage, which is widespread in the community; survival sex, which is widely tolerated and sometimes indirectly encouraged by parents; reproductive health and family planning; unprotected sex, recurrent and unreported rape and the high risk of HIV / AIDS transmission; and the high risk of sexual exploitation and abuse. Key recommendations from the mission include the need for widespread sensitisation sessions reaching men and women; the need to pursue solar lamps as a way of reducing the risk of SGBV in the camp, and the importance of integrating women and girls into basic literacy classes.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Latest developments

- **New arrivals increased in Faradje territory during the first half of February.** Some 2,819 South Sudanese refugees arrived at Meri site via Kurukwata, Ima and Lagabe. Most of them reached the site on their own and arrived in very bad condition. Upon arrival, the refugees were screened for the identification of persons in urgent need and assisted by medical partner *Association pour le Développement Economique et Social* (ADES).
- **On 2 and 4 February, refugees in Biringi blocked the road and a relocation convoy, which was carrying 76 newcomers, in order to protest against the modalities of cash assistance.** During demonstrations, several reception centres, the temporary health centre and the registration centre were damaged. Partners temporarily suspended activities, which resumed again on 8 and 10 February.
- **On 21 January, the Governor of Haut-Uélé Province issued a decree identifying four sites in Rungu territory, near Isiro, for the relocation of South Sudanese refugees present in Haut-Uélé Province.** UNHCR conducted an assessment mission to the sites.

Achievements and Impact

- **Protection:** UNHCR advocated to the government and MONUSCO to strengthen the presence of MONUSCO in Doruma, and the presence of FARDC and Police in Haut-Uélé and at the borders, to identify combatants from civilians and disarm them. Humanitarian access to Doruma remained hampered due to insecurity.
- **SGBV:** In Meri, 27 cases of SGBV were reported. The most frequent cases are rape and physical assaults. Access to justice remained challenging due to the distance to the courts and the weakness of the judicial and law enforcement system.

- **Child Protection:** Two unaccompanied children were identified by the *Association pour le Développement Social et la Sauvegarde de l'Environnement* (ADSSE) and were temporarily placed in foster families. In Doruma, UNHCR and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) interviewed 58 unaccompanied children. During the interviews, foster families expressed their need for food rations and support for income-generating activities.
- **In Biringi, three fountains and three water tanks were installed** to provide refugees and local population with clean drinking water. Another tank was installed at the Transit Centre in Aru. Some 211 new arrivals received blankets, mats, jerry cans, plastic buckets, soap and mosquito nets.
- **In Meri, 1,261 women and girls (aged 13 to 55 years old) received dignity** and were sensitized on their use. UNHCR partners ADSSE and the *Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés* (CNR) established 19 community gardens for growing vegetables.

ETHIOPIA

Latest developments

- **Over 1,600 South Sudanese refugees have arrived in Ethiopia between 1 and 15 February.** The arrival rate increased from 11 February due to the arrivals of refugees who were stranded in Akobo/Matar as result of the recent fight in Nassir, South Sudan.
- **During the reporting period, UNHCR registered 15 new South Sudanese refugees in Assosa.** The new arrivals come from Mathiang, Malakal and Mayut in Upper Nile State, and state conflict, poor living conditions and lack of access to basic services as their reasons for flight. All new arrivals were provided with high energy biscuits and water while waiting transportation to Tsore camp. Upon arrival in the reception centre the new arrivals were transported on the same day to Tsore refugee camp and subsequently registered. After the registration, the refugees received their monthly ration and core relief items including sleeping mat, bucket and blanket.

Achievements and Impact

- **Since September 2016, UNHCR has sought to strengthen its presence at Pagak entry point by enhancing protection delivery mechanisms to the new arrivals.** Collaboration between UNHCR, the Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) and other partners is ongoing and UNHCR and ARRA jointly carry out Level 1 registration. After Level 1 registration, the new arrivals are relocated to Nguenyiel camp and provided with basic services.
- **In Kule camp, ARRA provided a training for community police (shurta)** on a basic principles of community policing in collaboration with the Itang police office.
- **In Kule camp, a total of 2,644 children, including 74 with disabilities, participated in indoor and outdoor activities at the five child friendly spaces.** BIAs were conducted for 54 children and 23 children received psychosocial support services.
- **From 10 to 11 February, John Snow, Inc. (JSI) organized training for nine health workers from all refugee camps** except Okugo camp. The training sought to improve routine immunization services.
- **In Nguenyiel camp, International Medical Corps (IMC) conducted a public HIV awareness campaign,** reaching 750 individuals. Some 34 individuals were referred to the health centers for HIV screening and a total of 4,464 male condoms were distributed to enhance safe sex and avert the transmission of HIV and prevent unplanned pregnancy in the camp.

KENYA

Latest developments

- **A total of 1,187 new South Sudanese arrivals were registered in Kenya in the first half of February.** The refugees were hosted at Nadapal Transit Centre before being transported to Kakuma reception centre.

Achievements and Impact

- **The UNHCR Protection Delivery Unit conducted four border monitoring missions to Nadapal border in the first half of February.** New arrivals reported they faced no problems accessing Kenyan territory and there were no reported cases of *refoulement*.
- **During the reporting period, 28 cases of SGBV were recorded, including one male.**

- **The relocation of non-Somali refugees, including South Sudanese refugees, from Dadaab refugee camp to Kalobeyei settlement is ongoing.** The Government of Kenya, through the Refugee Affairs Secretariat (RAS), UNHCR and IOM have relocated a total of 2,611 individuals to date.
- **The installation of a 14 kilometre water pipeline from Kakuma refugee camp to Kalobeyei settlement is ongoing.** The pipeline will ensure over 22,405 refugees, including 16,938 South Sudanese, have access to clean water at the new settlement and it should be complete by the end of the month.
- **Negotiations are ongoing between UNHCR and the community to establish a community secondary school** targeting students who could not join the existing five secondary schools due to limited space. Some 700 students, the majority from South Sudan, have shown interest in the school.

SUDAN

Latest developments

- **Over 20,000 South Sudanese refugees are reported to have arrived in February (as of 26 February),** bringing the total 2017 arrivals to over 31,000. UNHCR Sudan is working with local authorities to verify reported arrival figures. UNHCR was expecting up to 60,000 new arrivals in Sudan in 2017 as part of its regional response. However, the level of new arrivals has thus far surpassed initial expectations.
- **On 3 February, clashes close to Sudan forced the evacuation of the Al Kuek North border point in White Nile state.** An estimated 900 people were subsequently assisted with transport to Um Sangour refugee site. A new entry point has been established at Um Jelala, about 10 kilometres from the border, where temporary registration of new arrivals has resumed by the Sudan Red Crescent Society (SRCS). SRCS is providing new arrivals with hot meals, water, medical assistance and nutrition screening. The refugees are then transferred to a refugee site, where they are biometrically registered by UNHCR and non-food items (NFIs) and shelters arrangements are made. Expansion of the Al Waral II, Al Redis II and Um Sangour sites is underway in White Nile in anticipation of an increasing influx over the coming months.
- **Refugees are arriving to East Darfur, Sudan at a steady rate.** In total, some 6,829 refugees have arrived since January into East Darfur. Since 1 February, 2,529 refugees have arrived at Kario site alone (as of 26 February). It is estimated that over 20,000 refugees are currently now in Kario. Community leaders have also reported new arrivals in February to Old Raja (approximately 2,200), El Ferdous (1,500) and Abu Jabra (1,900).

Achievements and Impact

- **In East Darfur, new arrivals were biometrically registered and received food, shelter and NFI packages.** UNHCR established a new mobile registration team to conduct household-level registration in these locations to verify the figures and facilitate access to immediate assistance. UNHCR and COR are working with local authorities to expand the reception capacity near key border crossing points to provide immediate life-saving assistance to refugees upon arrival in country, and support their onward transportation to the main service sites.
- **UNHCR Sudan undertook an assessment mission with local authorities to South and West Kordafon states, which highlighted the need for a new reception centre in Sirijaya, South Kordafon state, in order to address ongoing influxes of new refugee arrivals to the area.** This is an area where host community members also need support for basic services. State social workers conducted best interest assessments (BIAs) for UASC identified among new arrivals in Sirijaya and are in the process of identifying foster care arrangements.
- **In White Nile, UNHCR supported the state Civil Registry to finalize the registration and issuance of birth certificates for some 2,600 South Sudanese refugee children born since 1 January 2014 in the refugee sites at Dabat Bosin, Al Alagaya, Jouri, and Kashafa.** The state's Ministry of Social Affairs also identified and verified an additional 2,200 UASC living across the eight existing refugee sites. UNHCR and partners are arranging for child protection assistance, including non-food items, while BIAs are conducted.

UGANDA

Latest developments

- **Over 48,000 South Sudanese refugees arrived in Uganda in the first half of February.** Refugees report that fire is being used to clear the bush in South Sudan and the population have been urged to move to towns and cities, with anyone found in the countryside being charged with supporting opposing groups. Most refugees were forced to travel in the dark for greater security. Many report having made the journey to Uganda in groups of relatives or neighbours, either on foot or paying for their passage to the border in trucks and other vehicles.

- **With the high number of refugees fleeing from Kajo Keji county, there was an average daily arrival rate of 3,215, peaking on 1 February when 6,765 South Sudanese refugees were received in Uganda in a single day.** Additional police officers and army personnel were deployed to the border to maintain security.
- **In light of the ongoing mass influx from South Sudan, preparations are underway for a new refugee settlement in Imvepi, Arua district.** In parallel, reception facilities are being developed for a new settlement in Lamwo district, where an increase in new arrivals has been noted.
- **New arrivals continue to be relocated to Palorinya settlement in Moyo district,** which is now home to 129,024 South Sudanese refugees. Those who arrived in Palorinya Settlement after 31 January have not received essential relief items due to depleted stocks, affecting over 52,000 individuals. Refugees have been allocated plots in Palorinya Zone I Extension, however shelter kits are not available for shelter construction. To manage expectations, meetings have been held with community members to inform them of the current situation.
- **General food distribution in Bidibidi settlement was interrupted by a security incident on 9 February.** The Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) settled the issue, allowing food distribution to resume the next day.

Achievements and Impact

- **Persons with Specific Needs (PSN):** In Bidibidi, 177 PSNs in Zones 1, 2 and 5 were supported with non-food items, and 889 PSNs in Zones 1 and 2 were assisted with access during food distribution. In Palorinya, identification of PSNs has been ongoing during Level II registration in Zone III. Additional staff were deployed to assist extremely vulnerable individuals requiring expedited registration.
- **Sexual and Gender-Based Violence:** In Bidibidi, 47 cases of SGBV were reported, the majority of which were physical assaults perpetrated by partners and close family members. All survivors were provided with the appropriate support. One perpetrator with mental illness was referred for medical and mental health assessment. In Bidibidi, 104 community outreach activities reached 14,766 community members. In Palorinya, community awareness sessions on SGBV prevention and response reached 2,199 refugees in Zones I, II and III.
- **Child Protection:** In Bidibidi, 260 foster parents received cash grants, which they used for investments such as buying clothes and animals to sell. In Moyo, 40 unaccompanied children were placed in foster care and family tracing and reunification services were provided to seven children. In Adjumani, 43 children were received from an orphanage in Kajo-Keji, South Sudan along with their 38 caretakers. The children underwent best interest assessments (BIAs) and were screened for malnutrition, with four severely malnourished children referred for further assessment. They will be settled in Mireyi where they can easily access services in Adjumani town, and supported with core relief items, clothing and PSN shelter construction.
- **The new school year commenced on 6 February and schools have reopened across the settlements.** In Bidibidi, total enrolment of children in schools stands at 48,429 (26,783 male and 21,646 female).
- **In Bidibidi, a total of 2,515 children aged six to 59 months are in the feeding programs.** Some 25 pregnant and lactating women have also been identified and enrolled in the nutrition program. A total of 2,312 under-fives are enrolled in the nutrition centres in Bidibidi for rehabilitation. During the week, the defaulter rate among under-fives in the supplementary feeding program was estimated at 17 per cent. The default rate can partly be attributed to the continuous movement of refugees between the zones of the settlement. Village Health Teams continue to trace and follow up with defaulters.
- **In Moyo, 32 severely malnourished and 104 moderately malnourished refugees were identified.** This translates to a Global Acute Malnutrition rate of eight per cent for zone 1 (through mass screening) and 14 per cent for all the health facilities across the settlement, with a recovery rate of 67 per cent for severe acute malnutrition and 50 per cent for moderate acute malnutrition.
- **In Bidibidi, a mental health working group was formed and had their first meeting in Zone 1.** Some 196 mental health cases were registered in the settlement and are being followed up.

CRITICAL NEEDS AND GAPS

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Education: According to monitoring conducted by UNHCR partner ADSSE, the rate of attendance dropped from 85-92 per cent in January to 71 – 79 per cent in the first half of February. The drop was caused by lack of tuition fees and school supplies, and reluctance from some parents to have their children educated in French.

ETHIOPIA

Education: Access to education is constrained by the limited number of schools in the camps.

Nutrition: The malnutrition rate remains above the emergency threshold of less than 15 per cent in all the camps and is heightened by limited access to safe water and insufficient food.

KENYA

Education: There is an urgent need to establish more secondary schools to cater for the growing number of learners in the camp. Kakuma refugee camp has just five secondary school compared to 21 primary school, making the transition from primary to secondary school a major challenge. In Kalobeyei settlement, there is only one Primary school to cater for the over 5,600 enrolled students (the majority from South Sudan) and no secondary school.

SOUTH SUDAN

Protection: In Lasu, Central Equatoria, refugees displaced into host community villages continue to lack basic services in the hideouts due to the absence of humanitarian agencies who withdrew as a result of the deteriorated security situation on the Yei- Lasu road since September 2016.

Education: In Central Equatoria, lack of education for the refugee and host community children in Lasu and its environs remains a serious issue, as all schools in Lasu have remained closed due to insecurity since September 2016. In Pamir refugee camp, Unity, the ongoing relocation of refugees from Yida to Pamir has increased classroom congestion. UNHCR and its partner Lutheran World Federation (LWF) are currently planning to construct more temporary classrooms to address the congestion.

SUDAN

Emergency Response: Expansion of the Al Waral II, Al Redis II and Um Sangour sites is underway in White Nile in anticipation of an increasing influx over the coming months. UNHCR anticipated up to 60,000 new arrivals in Sudan in 2017, however at the current rate of arrival this figure is likely to be exceeded.

UGANDA

Protection: Safe spaces are needed for survivors of SGBV, as well as income-generating activities to reduce the risk of SGBV. Additional child friendly spaces and playgrounds are needed and child protection partners need further capacity building. There is also need for the deployment of additional security to monitor protection concerns in Palorinya.

Education: Rehabilitation of eroded school structures and construction of additional school structures is needed to ensure refugee children's access to education.

Health: Staffing shortfalls must be addressed to increase the number of skilled health workers. Permanent health infrastructure needs to be constructed in locations with tented health facilities.

Food Security and Nutrition: The nutrition programme coverage in all the Zones (particularly Zones 3 and 5) needs to be increased to address malnutrition.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: Piped water systems are required for all zones of Bidibidi.

Shelter, Infrastructure and Distribution: Relief items are urgently needed in Moyo District.

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Links:

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