



SOUTH SUDAN SITUATION

REGIONAL UPDATE

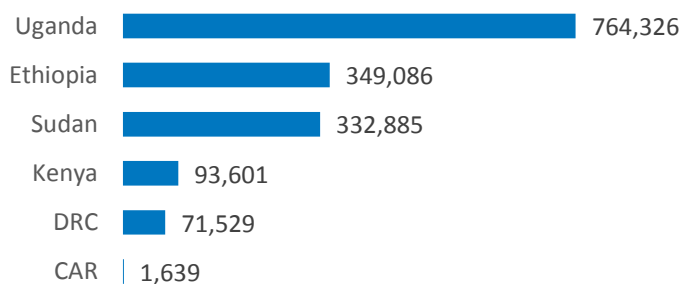
16 - 28 February 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

- **In South Sudan**, famine has been declared in parts of the country and some 100,000 people face starvation. A further one million people are classified as being on the brink of famine, according to the World Food Programme (WFP) and other UN bodies.
- **In Uganda**, Palorinya settlement has reached full capacity and is no longer receiving new arrivals. Relocation of new arrivals to the new Imvepi settlement in Arua district commenced on 21 February and by the end of February, the settlement was home to 5,257 South Sudanese refugees.
- **In Sudan**, increasing numbers of South Sudanese refugees have arrived in the country since the beginning of 2017, with nearly 25,000 new arrivals in February alone. UNHCR is working with local authorities to verify reported arrival figures. Refugees have reported walking for five to seven days to reach Sudan, and initial estimates indicate that approximately 90 per cent of the new arrivals are women and children. Many arrived exhausted and in poor health, after travelling with little or no food.

Population of concern

A total of **1,613,066** South Sudanese refugees as of 28 February 2017



	New arrivals in 2016	New arrivals in 2017 (as of 28 Feb)
Ethiopia	53,661	8,829
Sudan	134,370	35,845
Uganda	489,234	124,318
Kenya	22,501	3,601
DRC	61,125	4,390
CAR	659	0
TOTAL	761,550	176,983

KEY FIGURES

176,983*

South Sudanese arrivals in 2017, based on field reports as of 28 Feb

1,613,066*

Total South Sudanese refugees as of 28 Feb 2017 (pre and post Dec 2013 caseload and new arrivals)

263,214

Refugees in South Sudan

1.9 M

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

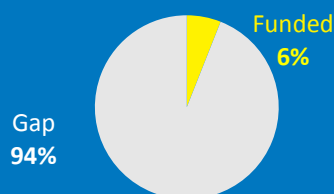
FUNDING

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

- **Famine has been declared in parts of South Sudan**, where UN agencies warned on 20 February that war and a collapsing economy had left 100,000 people facing starvation in some parts of the country. A further one million people were classified as being on the brink of famine, according to the World Food Programme (WFP) and other UN bodies.
- **UNHCR registered 814 new arrivals to South Sudan, representing a 10 per cent decrease compared to the previous reporting period.** The majority of the new arrivals are women and children, with unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) constituting 17 per cent of the new arrivals. Most of the new arrivals came from Heban, Umdoreen, Dalami and Al-Boram Counties in South Kordofan and reported hunger and the search for education as the primary reason for their flight to Yida. Others are coming for family reunification. Cumulatively, 2,855 new arrivals have been registered from South Kordofan since the beginning of 2017.
- **During the reporting period, South Sudan's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) recorded 1,598 new IDP arrivals to Yei** from the villages of Atende, Logo, Jonsuk, Kegulu, Minyori, Pakula, Mapoko and Kabegere. UNHCR, RRC, and UMCOR are working on the verification and provision of NFIs.

Achievements and Impact

- **In Yambio, Western Equatoria, UNHCR distributed non-food items (NFIs) including plastic sheets and soap to 1,346 vulnerable internally displaced people (IDPs).** The IDPs had previously been sleeping in the open at a primary school and were relocated to the Yambio Women's General Union premises. Many of the other 4,000 IDPs are staying with relatives and friends in residential areas of Yambio town. They were displaced as a result of fresh fighting between government forces and armed youth in the areas north of Yambio since 3 January 2017.
- **UNHCR relocated 744 refugees to Pamir camp in the second half of February**, including 656 new arrivals and 88 refugees previously settled in Yida. Pamir is now home to a total 9,123 refugees. UNHCR also relocated 705 individuals from Yida settlement to Ajuong Thok camp on family reunification grounds.
- **In Juba, UNHCR and its partner Humanitarian Development Consortium (HDC) distributed kitchen sets to 396 persons with special needs living at the Mahad IDP collective site.** The distribution was conducted following a fire at the site on 19 February and was a supplement to the NFI Cluster assistance.
- **In Pamir camp, Unity, UNHCR partner Danish Refugee Council (DRC) supported 560 refugees (140 households) with family tents.** Cumulatively, 414 family tents have been pitched in 2017. DRC also constructed 67 emergency shelters for refugees with special needs. Cumulatively, 179 emergency shelters have been built in 2017.
- **UNHCR partner Lutheran World Federation (LWF) delivered 70 desks to Kings of Nuba Primary School in Pamir, 50 desks to Napata and 80 to Merowe Primary schools to mitigate the shortage of desks.** LWF is recruiting more teachers for Kings of Nuba Primary School to reduce the high pupil-teacher ratio (over 1:110).
- **In Ajuong Thok camp, UNHCR gave startup business kits to 50 foster parents (25 male and 25 female) to support income-generation**, which will in turn help the foster parents support the children in their custody.
- **In Pamir camp, Unity, UNHCR distributed sanitary kits to 520 adolescent girls from three primary schools.**

- **In Yei, Central Equatoria, UNHCR and its partner UMCOR distributed sorghum (10 kilograms each) to 531 IDPs with specific needs.** The sorghum was left over from WFP's stock after it could not be distributed to refugees in Lasu settlement.
- **In Bentiu, Unity, UNHCR distributed NFIs (kitchen sets, buckets, soap, sanitary kits and sleeping mats) to five IDP survivors of sexual gender-based violence (SGBV);** four at the POC and one at Rubkona collective center.

Countries of Asylum

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Achievements and Impact

- **During the second half of February, the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) delivered sensitisation sessions on protection, assistance, security and peaceful coexistence** for both refugees and the local host community.
- **UNHCR provided 50 new mattresses to the local hospital** as a concrete step towards the integration of the South Sudanese refugees into local health services in Obo.
- **UNHCR distributed replacement NFIs to families who lost their belongings after a fire broke out in the camp on 23 February.** No one was hurt in the fire. The NFIs included blankets, plastic sheeting, mosquito nets, jerry cans, and kitchen sets. UNHCR and its partners have conducted regular sessions on safe cooking and fire awareness since the initial arrival of the refugees.
- **A total of 150 families benefited from the food distribution that finally took place on 23 February,** six days later than scheduled following the theft of food stocks. UNHCR strengthened its security measures and the distribution passed without incident.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Latest developments

- **The rate of new South Sudanese refugee arrivals into the Democratic Republic of the Congo decreased during the second half of February,** with 1,841 new arrivals in the reporting period, compared to 3,041 in the first half of the month, according pre-screening by the National Commission for Refugees (CNR).
- **From 12 to 23 February, UNHCR, its partners, local authorities and a refugee representative, conducted an evaluation of the four sites identified by the Governor of Haut-Uélé province for relocation of refugees from Meri and from border areas of Dungu territory.** The sites are in Rungu territory, about 150 km from South Sudanese border. Moving the refugees would have significant cost implications as access roads are in very bad conditions, the area is covered in forest and basic services, including schools, health care structures, and water points, need significant rehabilitation. Moreover, most of the refugees living in Meri and in border areas have refused relocation to Rungu.

Achievements and Impact

- **Relocation convoys to Biringi site fully resumed and biometric registration is ongoing.** As of 15 February, 1,554 South Sudanese refugees were relocated to the site from border areas.
- **Sexual and Gender-Based Violence:** in Biringi, ten new cases of SGBV were reported. All of the survivors received medical assistance from UNHCR partner *Association pour le Développement Economique et Social* (ADES) and psychological assistance from UNHCR partner *Action et Intervention pour le Développement et l'Encadrement Social* (AIDES). In total, 69 cases of SGBV have been reported at the site since the beginning of the relocation in November 2016.
- **Child Protection:** 34 unaccompanied children have been assisted with NFIs in Nambili by *Association pour le Développement Social et la Sauvegarde de l'Environnement* (ADSSE).
- **Local authorities in Biringi have identified a space for the construction of a primary school,** after advocacy from the CNR. The school will benefit both refugee children as well as those from the host community.
- **In Biringi, a total of 160 refugee households each received a 5,000m² (50x100m) plot of land for agriculture.**
- **In Meri, the health centre construction was completed.**

ETHIOPIA

Latest developments

- **A total of 3,921 South Sudanese refugees arrived in the Gambella region of Ethiopia in the second half of February.** Some 98 per cent of the new arrivals who were registered at Level 1 are of Nuer ethnicity and come from Upper Nile and Jonglei. All the newly arrived refugees were relocated to Nguenyiel camp.
- **The majority of the new arrivals in Gambella mentioned a lack of food as the main reason for fleeing South Sudan.** This differs from the ongoing fighting, which was the key reason reported in December 2016 and January 2017. The majority of the adolescents and youth expressed access to education as one of the main reasons for movement into Ethiopia, in addition to food insecurity.
- **An additional 54 South Sudanese refugees arrived in Ethiopia through Assosa,** reporting the deteriorating security situation as their main reason for flight. Some of the new arrivals require reunification with family members in the Assosa camps.

Achievements and Impact

- **A total of 1,501 refugees were registered at Level 2 in Nguenyiel camp in the second half of February.** UNHCR and the Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) continued to operate the protection help desk / litigation desk for refugees with claims and complaints.
- **During the reporting period, UNHCR registered 600 unaccompanied children and 967 separated children** in Gambella. The unaccompanied children were referred to foster care. A total of 820 children participated in child friendly spaces.
- **UNHCR partner International Medical Corps provided support to all survivors of SGBV** through medical referrals to ARRA and *Médecins Sans Frontières* (MSF) health centres.

SUDAN

Latest developments

- **Since the start of 2017, increasing numbers of South Sudanese refugees have fled into Sudan, with nearly 25,000 people arriving in Sudan in February alone.** The states with the largest influx of new arrivals in 2017 include White Nile (9,702), South Kordofan (8,665), East Darfur (7,275) and West Kordofan (7,170). UNHCR is working with local authorities to verify reported arrival figures.
- **In North Darfur, an inter-agency mission led by UNHCR and the Commissioner for Refugees (COR) from 12 to 16 February identified 19,531 South Sudanese refugees living across nine locations in Al Lait.** The refugees are from Northern Bahr Al Ghazal, South Sudan, and have been transiting through West Kordofan state to the area since May 2016. The mission identified an urgent need for all basic services, including food, WASH, health and education services. UNHCR is following up with humanitarian actors to provide assistance.
- **In El Leri, South Kordofan, UNHCR led an inter-agency rapid assessment mission to identify the profile and needs of recent new arrivals.** The mission received reports that an ongoing influx to the area is anticipated through March. Preliminary mission findings indicate refugees are in urgent need of food, NFIs, medicines and WASH services. The majority of new arrivals were women, children and elderly persons.

Achievements and Impact

- **In White Nile, 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 and the state Ministry of Social Affairs have strengthened training on the implementation of a response plan for unaccompanied and separated children for protection committee members in Al Waral, Um Sangour, Al Redis I and Kashafa refugee sites.
- **Biometric registration is ongoing at the Kario site in East Darfur, with a total of 9,071 refugees registered as of 28 February, including 2,975 who arrived in February.** The total population in Kario is now estimated to be 16,000. Biometric registration for refugees who were relocated from Khor Omer IDP camp to Kario last year will run to 13 March, after which continuous registration will be in place to capture new arrivals to Kario. Preparations are underway to support voluntary relocation to the new Al Nimir site, anticipated to begin in mid-April, including a registration team. To date, biometric registration has led to the identification and registration of 45 UASC and 55 children with other protection concerns in Kario. UNHCR supported an agreement between community leaders, UNICEF and local partner RIMCO on the provision of updated lists of UASC not yet registered, who UNHCR will register and then conduct BIAs before the end of March.

- **Child protection initiatives are ongoing in South and West Kordofan, with a focus on the identification of UASC among new arrivals.** In West Kordofan, local partner AORD provided psychosocial support and recreational activities to over 150 UASC at the local Child Friendly Space. In South Kordofan, the State Council for Child Welfare (SCCW) identified 137 UASC, and alternative care arrangements are being made in consultation with refugee community leaders. Community reports indicate that there are additional UASC who have newly arrived, and UNHCR and SCCW are working to identify and support these children as soon as possible.
- **In South Kordofan, UNHCR began the distribution of 1,000 NFI kits to new arrivals.** WFP dispatched emergency rations to cover the needs of both new arrivals and the pre-existing arrivals. UNICEF is providing temporary water trucking to Al Amira reception centre and El Leri for the next 45 days while partners explore a more sustainable solution to local water shortages for refugees, which will also serve host community members who have shared available water in the area. The state Ministry of Social Affairs is coordinating alternative care arrangements for over 1,000 UASC. In West Kordofan, the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) and UNHCR coordinated the delivery of 1,500 NFI kits to Kharasana to respond to the recent influx, and Concern Worldwide distributed 1,200 NFI kits to new arrivals at El Meriam. UNHCR is supporting the state government to ensure reception centres are fully functional and able to respond to new arrival needs.

UGANDA

Latest developments

- **Over 17,000 South Sudanese refugees arrived in Uganda in the second half of February.** While the rate of arrival remains high, this is a decrease from the over 48,000 new arrivals reported in the first half of the month. Refugees arriving in Uganda, the majority of whom are women and children, continue to report general insecurity, limited access to food and basic services, violence, rape and abuse of women and girls, arbitrary detention and indiscriminate killing and destruction of property by armed forces as reasons for fleeing their homes in South Sudan.
- **Refugees report that due to lack of security on the main roads to the border they are forced to walk up to seven days through the bush to reach Uganda,** usually in groups with few belongings and limited access to food and water. Many refugees are arriving via the Democratic Republic of the Congo, spending several days taking uncharted routes through the dense forests of the DRC to avoid attacks by armed groups.
- **Palorinya settlement has reached its capacity and is no longer receiving new arrivals.** Level 2 registration activities have been completed across all zones of the settlement, and 43,101 individuals have been biometrically registered and issued documentation by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM).
- **Relocation of new arrivals to Imvepi settlement in Arua district commenced on 21 February** and by the end of February the settlement was home to 5,257 South Sudanese refugees.
- **In Yumbe district, maintenance, stabilisation and development of Bidibidi Settlement area are now the priority.** Livelihood activities are increasing, access to safe water and health facilities has improved and efforts are underway to build more sustainable structures to replace the older emergency shelters.

Achievements and Impact

- **Persons with Specific Needs (PSN):** In Bidibidi, 302 PSNs were supported with essential household items, 1,291 were assisted during general food distribution and 42 shelters were constructed/renovated and allocated to PSNs in Zones 3 and 4. In Palorinya, a comprehensive needs assessment for PSNs commenced on 17 February to identify the location of all PSNs to ease follow up and assess their accessibility to services. In Adjumani, 50 caretakers of PSNs were trained on providing quality care.
- **Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV):** In Bidibidi, 33 new cases of SGBV were reported and the survivors supported with appropriate services. In Adjumani, one case of rape and one of physical assault were followed up with medical and counselling services. One defilement case was reported in Maaji II, the survivor received family counselling and medical examination, and the case was referred to the police. Appropriate action is being pursued against the perpetrators. In Palorinya, seven SGBV cases were reported with survivors supported. A police post was established in Bidibidi Zone 2 and thirteen police staff, including two women, have been assigned to enhance security in the zone. Sensitization campaigns in Bidibidi, Palorinya and Adjumani reached some 11,000 refugees and nationals with SGBV prevention and response messages.
- **Child Protection:** In Palorinya, 141 children at risk were identified and assisted, five children were successfully reunified with their families, and 542 people attended community awareness raising sessions on child marriage,

education and child neglect reached. As the situation stabilises in Adjumani, verification of UASC is ongoing in the newly opened Pagirinya, Agojo and Maaji settlements to better understand the caseload so that targeted assistance can be provided to children.

- **Education:** In Bidibidi, total enrolment of children in primary, secondary and early childhood development now stands at 54,144 (56 per cent male and 44 per cent female) while in Palorinya, total enrolment of children in schools now stands at 31,195. Teacher, head teacher, classroom assistant and caregiver recruitment is ongoing.
- **Medical screening and immunization continued at collection points and reception centres and refugees continued to receive medical treatment and referrals across the settlements.** The leading causes of illness across the settlements were malaria, respiratory tract infections, and Acute Watery Diarrhea. In Bidibidi, distribution of mosquito nets to children under five and pregnant women is ongoing in all zones. In Adjumani, 694 refugees were screened for HIV, of which eleven (1.6 per cent) tested positive and were referred for treatment.
- **In Bidibidi, a total of 2,453 children aged six to 59 months are enrolled in the feeding programs;** 33 pregnant and lactating women have also been identified and enrolled in the nutrition program. A total of 2,210 under-fives are enrolled in the nutrition centres in Bidibidi for rehabilitation.

CRITICAL NEEDS AND GAPS

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Shelter, NFIs and Energy: At Meri site, Faradje territory, many refugees are still sleeping outside due to the lack of space in the hangars. At both Biringi and Meri sites, people with specific needs required firewood and solar lamps.

ETHIOPIA

Protection: There has been a reduction of SGBV and child protection partner staffing due to reduced budgets.

Shelter: Some 52 per cent of South Sudanese refugee households do not have adequate shelter.

SOUTH SUDAN

Education: In Ajuong Thok camps, classrooms congestion remains a problem in all primary schools and Soba Secondary School. LWF has started using the Reception Centre for teaching 788 pupils from the lower classes as a temporary measure until temporary shelters and a new school are constructed. In Pamir camp, lack of textbooks in both primary and secondary schools remains an issue.

Emergency Response: In Yei, there is inadequate humanitarian support, including food and NFIs, for PSNs and the newly displaced individuals from the rural areas into Yei Town due to unpredictable security situation.

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. In Al Lait, North Darfur, South Sudanese refugees are in urgent need for all basic services, including food, WASH, health and education services. In El Leri, South Kordofan, South Sudanese refugees are in urgent need of food, NFIs, medicines and WASH services.

UGANDA

Protection: The need for family reunification between settlements remains constant, with refugees expressing concerns that they are unable to travel to register in other settlements due to long distances between settlements, and fear that not being part of the initial registration process may exclude them from access to resources. In Palorinya, increased security personnel, particularly female officers, enhanced family tracing and reunification services, and training for SGBV case management is required. In Bidibidi, there is the need to ensure a stock of construction materials for PSN shelters, address challenges in delivering food to PSNs in critical condition, and work with communities to increase reporting of Child Protection cases.

Education: Accommodation for teachers is required, and additional teachers are needed to improve pupil to teacher ratios.

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.

Shelter, Infrastructure and Distribution: In Palorinya, there is the need to improve signage and mapping of the settlement, support shelter construction for persons with specific needs and deliver community sensitization on environmental protection.

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>