

South Sudan Situation

1-31 May 2019

2,317,570*

South Sudanese refugees in the region as of 31 May 2019 (pre- and post-Dec 2013 caseload).

11,767*

South Sudanese new refugee arrivals in May 2019.

298,069

Total refugee population in South Sudan recorded so far in 2019.

KEY INDICATORS

4.3 million

persons of concern (South Sudanese refugees in the region; South Sudanese IDPs and refugees in South Sudan)

80%

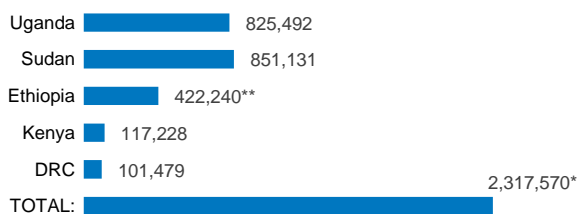
of the South Sudanese refugee population are women and children, 63 per cent being only children (under the age of 18 years old).

1.83 million

Number of IDPs in South Sudan as of May 2019,

SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEES AS OF MAY 2019*

Host Countries



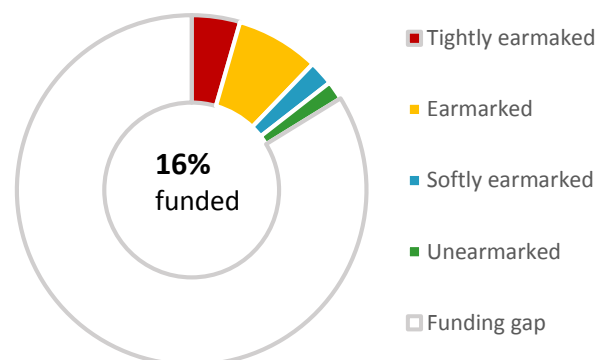
* This figure does not include 2222 refugees and asylum seekers in the Central African Republic.

** Population figures for Ethiopia were frozen as of August 2018 due to the roll-out of a new registration system aiming to enhance registration data.

EARMARKED FUNDING (AS OF END OF MAY 2019)

USD 726.1 million

requested for the South Sudan situation



New Arrivals

	In 2018 (Jan to Dec)	In 2019 (as of May)
CAR	325	171
DRC	6,201	4,333
Ethiopia	19,770**	0**
Kenya	7,325	6,377
Sudan	33,117	12,813
Uganda	40,758	22,498
TOTAL	107,496	46,192

Regional Highlights

- **From the 13-23 May, the Regional Refugee Coordinator and Special Advisor for the South Sudan Situation, Mr. Arnauld Akodjenou, carried out an advocacy mission to the United States of America (Washington and New York) and Canada (Ottawa) to meet with various humanitarian, development, political and other key interlocutors positioned to bolster the support for the South Sudanese persons of concern protection needs and solutions.** As the largest scale forced displacement on the African continent, the South Sudanese situation is also a children's catastrophe. The response encompasses four main challenges: ease pressures on refugee hosting countries; enhance refugee self-reliance; expanding access to third country solutions and ensuring South Sudanese refugees are not left behind in line with a coordinated whole of society approach envisaged by the Global Compact on Refugees.
- **The Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) jointly released the revised 2019-2020 Uganda Refugee Response Plan (RRP).** The revision is a result of an exercise of planning figures, targets and budgets with a reduced refugee population as of year-end 2018 which started last February. With a new baseline population of 1.19 million refugees as of 31 December 2018, RRP partners revised their plans to cater for 1.31 million refugees by the end of 2019 and 1.30 million refugees by the end of 2020 contrary to the initial projections of 1.74 million by year-end 2019 and 1.73 million by year-end 2020.
- **On May 2019, UNHCR carried out an intention survey on South Sudanese refugees. The refugee intention survey was based on a sample size, which is representative of refugee settings in all six countries of asylum hosting South Sudanese refugees in the East Horn and Great Lakes hosting namely: Uganda, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Central African Republic.** A total of 6,587 South Sudanese refugees were interviewed by UNHCR staff across the region. The survey was initiated against the backdrop of some 147,000 refugees reported to have spontaneously returned to South Sudan from asylum countries since mid-2017. The reports of returns are from various sources and are being confirmed through household verifications in areas which are accessible in South Sudan. While UNHCR recognizes the individual human right to return to one's country, the current stance is that given the prevailing situation in South Sudan, conditions are not met for UNHCR to facilitate or promote returns of South Sudanese refugees. UNHCR calls on states to continue to grant international protection to South Sudanese refugees and has issued an updated April 2019 [Position on Returns to South Sudan](#).
- **On 27-29 May, the Independent Boundaries Commission on South Sudan (IBC) in coordination with UNHCR, undertook a visit to Kakuma camp to meet South Sudanese refugees and seek their views on the number of states they see appropriate for South Sudan.** The IBC was established on 18 March 2019 pursuant to Article 1.15.1 of the [Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic](#)

of South Sudan (R-ARCSS). This was a welcome development to include refugees in the peace process.

Updates and Achievements

SOUTH SUDAN

Update

- On 24 May, the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres **announced** the appointment of Lieutenant General Shailesh Tinaikar of India as his new Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).

Achievements and Impact

- **Education:** In Maban, UNHCR in collaboration with Lutheran World Federation (LWF) successfully conducted the first term exams on 3 May 2019, in line with the South Sudan national school calendar. A total of 25,463 (12,067 girls, 13,396 boys) students sat for the first term examinations in the primary schools. There was a 65 per cent passing rate (16,752: 7,158 girls, 9,594 boys). There was the same passing rate (65 per cent) for the 4,439 (2,493 girls, 1,946 boys) students who sat for their Accelerated Education Program (AEP) examinations. In the secondary schools, there was a passing rate of 69 per cent for the 630 (141 girls, 489 boys) students who sat for their first term exams.
- **Health:** In Western Equatoria, UNHCR, for the second time this year, donated an assortment of medical supplies and medical items to the Yambio State Hospital. This donation is a part of UNHCR's continued support to the Ministry of Health and Yambio State Hospital in order to provide comprehensive health services to refugees and the host community.
- **IDPs:** Between 7 and 6 May, five convoys assisted some 1,484 IDPs (570 families) in their voluntary return from Melut to Baliet county. An inter-cluster assessment, led by the Protection Cluster, found the locations of return to be safe for return without causing harm. Identified gaps were jointly addressed by the Upper Nile Solutions Working Group (SWG) before the returns began. UNHCR and respective clusters provided transportation, NFI/shelter kits, food assistance and vaccination upon return.
- **Spontaneous refugee returns:** Following ongoing reported spontaneous refugee returns, UNHCR carried out monitoring and protection training field missions to Western Equatoria (Yambio), Central Equatoria (Yei), Jonglei (Akobo and Bor) and Western Bahr El-Ghazal (Abyei and Aweil) to gather information on South Sudanese refugee returnees to these areas. Among the reasons for return, returnees reported: limited assistance and the security situation (DRC), reunification with families and reported improvement on the security situation in South Sudan.

Countries of Asylum

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Achievements and Impact

- **Following the verification exercise conducted between late February and April 2019, as of 31 May 2019 there is a total of 2,222 South Sudanese refugees living in Central African Republic (CAR).** The majority of this population - 2,171 individuals - live in rural areas – Obo (1,605) and Mboki (566) – while 51 individuals reside in the capital Bangui.
- **UNHCR distributed cash to a total of 703 refugee households (2474 individuals) out of which 1,643 were South Sudanese.** The cash assistance has been in place since January 2019 as the World Food Programme (WFP) has not been able to provide food due to logistical constraints which have prevented access to refugees in Obo.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Latest Developments

- **A men's football tournament is taking place in Meri settlement and the nearby town of Aba between 24 May and 20 June (World Refugee Day) to promote peaceful coexistence between refugees and host communities, as part of UNHCR's Sports for Protection project funded by the International Olympic Committee.** About 220 people organized in 20 teams, out of which 8 of South Sudanese refugees participate in the tournament. The support to the refugee teams was revealed with a significant increase of the audience attendance when refugee teams played.
- **A group of diplomats from France, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, and the United States of America visited Biringi settlement (Aru territory) and were accompanied by UNHCR's Regional Representative, Ann Encontre, from 29 to 31 May.** The significant progress made by UNHCR in advocating for refugees 'self-reliance by promoting access to farming land, providing related training, tools and seeds to refugees and members of the local community was recognized and praised by some donor representatives. They were positively impressed by the high potential for further increasing self-reliance in Biringi.

Achievements and Impact

- **The ongoing influx of South Sudanese refugees has put stress on available shelter and water sources with about 15,750 refugees in Meri and over 3,000 refugees in Biringi settlements living in temporary housing units.** The number of new registrations has been rising since the beginning of the year totaling 4,373 as of May 2019. Immediate shelter needs include 9,438 shelter and latrine kits (7,938 in Meri, and 1,500 in Biringi) and 29 additional boreholes are needed in Meri and six in Biringi.

ETHIOPIA**Latest Developments**

- **In Gambella region, following the stabilization of the operational environment, UNHCR resumed missions to all the refugee camps on 2 May 2019, after a three-day interruption of missions to all refugee camps in 29 April due to security incidents.** During the three-day interruption, basic services were provided by partners based in the camps and refugee committees.

KENYA**Latest Developments**

- **UNHCR, together with the Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims (SUPKEM) carried out a Ramadan campaign to support refugee education in Kenya which raised over 15 million shillings (150,000 U.S. dollars) in support of refugee education at an Iftar dinner held in Nairobi, Kenya.** The majority of refugee children living in Kenya's Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps as well as the urban area, home to 966, 109,764 and 6,498 South Sudanese refugees respectively, only have access to primary education. Less than one third of refugee school-aged children are able to attend secondary school and only 13 per cent of refugee youth have access to tertiary education.

Achievements and Impact

- **In Kalobeyi, 1,150 individuals were empowered by business development services in financial literacy provided by the Village Loans and Savings Associations (VSLA) which gave them capacity strengthening and business management training.** Despite the ongoing efforts towards refugee's self-reliance, there is inadequate access to credit facilities by refugees, which limits the growth of existing businesses and limits opportunities for new businesses.

SUDAN**Latest Developments**

- **In Sudan the economic crisis continues. Shortage of cash and fuel, inflation and increases in prices of essential commodities are affecting implementation of activities in some states.** The rainy season has started, a period during which the humanitarian response slows down due to reduced road accessibility to refugee camps.

Achievements and Impact

- **In North Darfur, UNHCR partner NADA conducted six awareness sessions on Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) in refugee community centres in Al Lait locality.** A total of 210 women, men and youth participated in the sessions sharing information on SGBV response, protection and risk identification. A key concern raised by participants

was the issue of child marriage is a common practice among South Sudanese refugees, with girls being married off as early as 8 years of age.

- **In White Nile State, UNHCR and the Government Forest National Corporation (FNC) are embarking on a reforestation programme that will see 100 hectares of degraded forest near refugee camps restored with trees.** UNHCR and FNC will use over 7,200 cocoons that support trees to grow in arid areas to ensure that the tree seedlings thrive in the dry and hot weather of Sudan. The cocoons also protect seedlings from wind, animals and wild grasses, and reduce evaporation, which improves tree survival rates by 75-95 per cent. The planting of trees in White Nile is key to restoring the forest cover in the State. These programmes are paired with forestry-based livelihoods programmes.

UGANDA

Latest Developments

- **On May, UNHCR and partners carried out several new approaches to foster private sector engagement in line with the Global Compact for Refugees which calls for financial and economic inclusion of refugees to promote self-reliance.** Namely, UNHCR and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) conducted a scoping mission to Arua, Yumbe and Moyo Districts, on 6-10 May 2019, to assess the market potential for investments by the private sector in agro-produce from the area. It is envisaged that private sector investment should eventually lead to job creation, value addition to agro-produce from refugee hosting areas and general economic development.

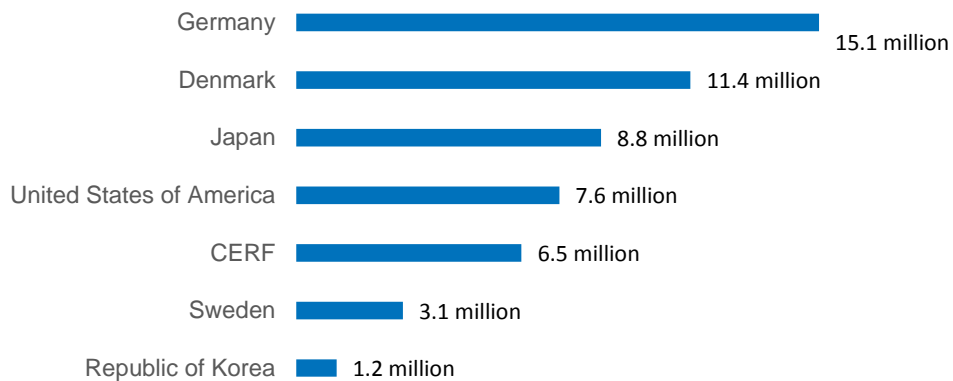
Achievements and Impact

- **On 31 May, UNHCR convened the first task-force meeting to develop the Inter Agency Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) in Uganda, on 31st May 2019.** While UNHCR already has its own internal SOPs on PSEA, the Inter Agency SOPs will facilitate joint actions by humanitarian and development agencies in Uganda, to protect beneficiaries from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and enhance the collective capacity of the agencies and affected populations to prevent and respond to SEA committed by aid workers. The SOPs are to be finalized in June 2019.

Financial Information

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to the South Sudan situation as well as for those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.

Total contributions for the South Sudan Situation amount to some **USD 117.7 million.**



Special thanks to the major donors of softly earmarked and regional funds in 2019 | USD

United States of America 78.6 million | Canada 8.9 million | United Kingdom 6.9 million | Sweden 4.4 million | Private donors Australia 3.8 million

Special thanks to the major donors of unearmarked contributions | USD

Sweden 90.4 million | Norway 44.5 million | Netherlands 37.5 million | United Kingdom 31.7 million | Germany 26.7 million | Private donors Spain 26.3 million | Denmark 24.4 million | Switzerland 15.1 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 13.8 million

External / Donors Relations

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LINKS

Regional Data Portal: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/southsudan>

UNHCR South Sudan situation Page: <https://www.unhcr.org/south-sudan-emergency.html>

UNHCR South Sudan situation Global Focus: <http://reporting.unhcr.org/node/20>

Recent News Story: <https://www.unhcr.org/news/stories/2019/6/5cf67cbb4/refugee-south-sudan-becomes-advocate-tree-planting-uganda.html>