

# South Sudan Situation

January-February 2020

**2,239,365\***

South Sudanese refugees in the region as of 2020 (pre- and post-Dec 2013 caseload).

**12,567\***

South Sudanese refugee arrivals since 1 January 2020.

**299,815**

Refugees in South Sudan of whom 93 per cent are from Sudan.

**276,896**

Number of South Sudanese refugees who have returned in a self-organized manner (since November 2017)

**82%**

of the South Sudanese refugee population are women and children (under the age of 18 years old)

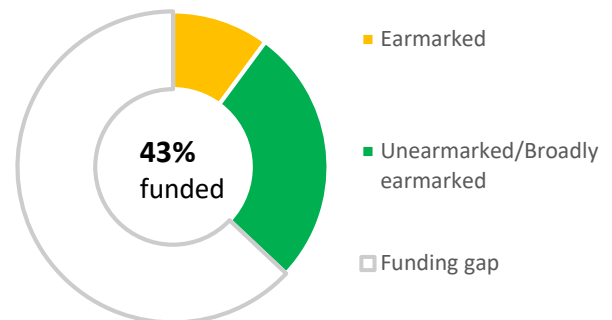
**1.66 million**

Number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in South Sudan with 13% inside six UNMISS Protection of Civilians sites.

## SOUTH SUDAN REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN FUNDING (AS OF 29 FEBRUARY)

**USD 1.4 billion**

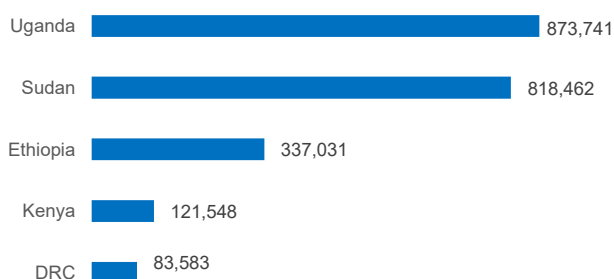
requested for the South Sudan situation



\*Click [here](#) for the Refugee Funding Tracker

## POPULATION OF CONCERN (AS OF 29 FEBRUARY)

### Host Countries



\* Based on field reports, UNHCR and Government registration.

## New Arrivals

	In 2019 Jan to Dec	In 2020 Jan to Feb
CAR	171	0
DRC	5,816	387
Ethiopia	8,219	312
Kenya	10,515	1,143
Sudan	18,591	5,717
Uganda	31,635	5,008
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>74,947</b>	<b>12,567</b>

## Highlights and Operational Context

- In a presidential decree on 21 February, President Kiir dismissed all members of his government, and appointed Dr Riek Machar as the first vice-president of South Sudan. On 22 February, the formation of the revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity (R-TGoNU) took place with the swearing in of the four vice-presidents. The formation of the R-TGoNU was done amidst continuing discussions on the remaining outstanding issues such as the boundaries of states and administrative areas. The new government follows the 'Revitalized agreement on the resolution of the conflict in the Republic of South Sudan' signed in September 2018 by South Sudan's warring parties. This peace agreement brought hope to the world's youngest nation, which remains Africa's largest humanitarian and refugee crisis with 2.2 million South Sudanese refugees and 1.67 million internally displaced. The UN Secretary-General welcomed the establishment of the R-TGoNU and called upon its members to "fully adhere to the letter and spirit of the Agreement," so that the people of South Sudan can finally realize the benefits of durable peace and stability they deserve.
- The fourth report of the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan presented to the 43rd Session of the Human Rights Council in February 2020 found that "deliberate starvation is clearly occurring along ethnic and political lines, in an effort to marginalize dissident communities as well as those too disenfranchised to challenge the status quo because their day-to-day lives revolve around basic survival." "Officials in the Government of South Sudan are implicated in the pillaging of public funds as well as money laundering, bribery and tax evasion," said the Commission Chair Yasmin Sooka.

## Updates and Achievements

### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

#### Latest Developments

- UNHCR recorded the arrival of 329 South Sudanese asylum-seekers in its reception centers in Ituri and Haut Uele Provinces in December. Some had fled ongoing fighting in South Sudan, while others arrived from border areas within the DRC that are frequently targeted by armed groups, and where humanitarian aid is diminishing.
- On 15 January, UNHCR received essential drugs and antimalarials to cover the first trimester of 2020. Nevertheless, additional deliveries are needed to cover the rest of the year. Since December 2019, UNHCR had been out of anti-malarial medication for South Sudanese, although malaria is the leading cause of mortality in the area.

#### Achievements and Impact

- In January, 111 South Sudanese refugees were relocated to Bele settlement in Haut-Uele Province, bringing the total number to 1,307 since September 2019. The relocation exercise aims to decongest the overcrowded Meri settlement and to move refugees away from unsafe border areas.
- In Biringi and Aba settlements, school kits were distributed to 5,506 pupils in 14 primary schools, including 919 Congolese pupils of the host community.

## ETHIOPIA

### Latest Developments

- As of 27 February, 4,296 South Sudanese were registered in Pamdong reception centre in the Gambella region. Since the beginning of the year, 301 individuals have been relocated to Assosa. In Raad reception centre, 155 new arrivals were registered and transferred to Okugo camp.
- The Agency for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) has approved 516.8 hectares (1,292 acres) of unutilized arable land within refugee camps to be used for agricultural activities by refugees. To begin with, 50 hectares of the allocated land will be put under pilot crop production in Nguenyiel and Pugnido I camp (25 hectares respectively). The objective of the pilot project is to promote market-oriented crop production that will enhance food security and consumption and diversify income sources.

### Achievements and Impact

- Action Against Hunger (ACF) scaled up its daily nutrition intervention at Pamdong reception centre due to the increasing caseload. Nutritional screening was undertaken for 303 children between the ages of 6-59 months and identified 33 cases of acute malnutrition. All cases were referred to services for malnutrition treatment and follow up. In addition, Ready to Use Therapeutic Products (RUTF) consumption and needs for the first quarter of 2020 were dispatched in collaboration with partners. UNICEF distributed 2,400 cartons of plumpy nut; 30 cartons of F75 therapeutic milk and 19 cartons of F100 therapeutic milk to treat malnutrition.

## KENYA

### Latest Developments

- A Regional Ministerial Forum on Harmonizing Labour Migration policies in East & Horn of Africa was held on 20 and 21 January. Eleven member states including Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda signed a Communique, the "[Nairobi Process](#)" which outlines pledges and commitments of the member states towards harmonizing labour migration policies against the back drop of the Global Compact on Migration.
- In January, refugee and Kenyan students at Kalobeyei Secondary schools and Our Lady's Girls Boarding School in Kakuma benefitted from two sets of Digital Libraries donated by UNESCO. UNESCO's Chief of Education, noted that the two libraries will enhance learning and ensure learners have access to online teaching and learning materials.

### Achievements and Impact

- Registration of candidates for the 2020 Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) National Examinations commenced in all primary schools in Kakuma refugee camp and Kalobeyei settlement. A total of 5,662 and 1,031 candidates are expected to be registered in Kakuma and Kalobeyei respectively.
- In January, 6,813 families (35,996 individuals) in Kakuma camp and Kalobeyei settlement received unrestricted cash to cover the cost of core relief items including soap and sanitary towels. A total of 8,788,100 KES was distributed to cover the costs of 21 metric ton of soap, 9,682 underwear and 96,820 sanitary napkins.

## **SUDAN**

### **Latest Developments**

- The Sudanese Pound (SDG) has continued to fall during the month of January, reaching an unofficial exchange rate of \$1 USD to 100 SDG. Since September 2019, the unofficial exchange rate has increased by approximately 65 per cent. As a result, the price of commodities across Sudan has increased alongside nationwide shortages of fuel and bread. Moreover, construction material prices have also increased, delaying planned construction of shelters in Al Jameya refugee camp in White Nile State, home to over 10,000 South Sudanese refugees.

### **Achievements and Impact**

- In White Nile State, a total of 729 families have been relocated from Khor Al Waral refugee camp to Al Jameya camp, as part of the efforts to decongest the camp, host to the largest number of refugees in the State, with nearly 43,000 individuals (over 10,500 families). A total of 519 families participated in the construction of their own durable shelters with support from the Sudanese Red Cross Society (SRCS). Another 210 families with special needs were provided ready-made durable shelters constructed by UNHCR and the Commissioner for Refugees (COR). Many families in Khor Al Waral have approached UNHCR showing interest and willingness to be included in the durable shelter project. The shelters are stronger and offer more protection from natural elements and offer greater privacy.
- A Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SHF) financed project, completed by Care International Switzerland (CIS) in Nivasha “Open Area” in Khartoum, has enabled refugees to collect clean drinking water a short walking distance from water collection points. A total of 10,047 refugees (52% women) are benefitting from having access to clean water at approximately 15 litres per person per day. As a result of the project, personal hygiene has now improved and the risks of sexual and gender-based violence have been reduced, particularly for women and children who use to walk 4 km to collect clean water. Access to safe water will have positive impacts on nutrition, health and education outcomes for refugees living in Nivasha.

## **UGANDA**

### **Latest Developments**

- The World Bank are in the process of finalizing the design of their Uganda Secondary School Expansion Project (USEEP) which is seeking to address the extremely low enrolment rate at secondary level; inequitable access to secondary school for girls – both refugees and Ugandans; and the lack of comprehensive education system reforms. Refugee enrollment in secondary school in 2019 stood at 15 percent. UNHCR is supporting the design with data and analysis of secondary school enrolment from the refugee settlements; infrastructural update and gaps; and have accompanied the World Bank team on scoping missions in the development of their secondary school framework.

### **Achievements and Impact**

- In line with the continued effort to address fraud identified in refugee SIM card registration, UNHCR is also supporting the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) and Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), to establish a live linkage to authenticate refugee biometrics and documentation for the issuance of SIM cards. A Data Protection Impact Assessment was carried out for the initiative and the main recommendation of the assessment is the finalization of a Data Sharing Agreement between UNHCR, OPM and UCC, prior to the live launch. Meanwhile, testing is ongoing with challenges being addressed by the UNHCR headquarters development team.

- UNHCR, in collaboration with Food and Nutrition Solutions (FONUS), OPM, Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), UNICEF, WFP, District Local Governments (DLGs) and partners, supported the implementation of primary data collection of the Refugee Food Security and Nutrition Assessment (FSNA). The annual periodic survey is carried out in refugee settlements and their hosting districts, to estimate the situation of Food Security, Nutrition, WASH and Health. This survey will help identify priority areas and inform programming by all stakeholders for the benefit of refugees, their host communities, and the refugee population in Kampala. The 2019 FSNA round was funded by UNICEF.

## 2019 South Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan Partners

The 2019 RRRP brings together the following 114 partners across the five main countries of asylum:

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

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## 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>

### UNHCR Press releases and stories:

*UN Refugee Chief welcomes South Sudan's government of national unity:*

#### UN Refugee Chief welcomes South Sudan's government of national unity

22 February 2020 | Español | Français | عربي



<https://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2020/2/5e500f9f4/un-refugee-chief-welcomes-south-sudans-government-national-unity.html>

### *Suicides on the rise among South Sudanese refugees in Uganda:*



**Suicides on the rise among South Sudanese refugees in Uganda**

Mental health initiatives offer space for refugees and people where they live to overcome pain and isolation – and prevent more deaths.

South Sudanese refugee "Shani" (in pink) hugs fellow refugee Kiden in Uganda's Bidibid settlement. Shani has received counselling since July 2019 when she tried to take her own life. Names changed for protection reasons.  
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<https://www.unhcr.org/news/stories/2020/1/5e2afb5b4.html>