



SOUTH SUDAN SITUATION

REGIONAL UPDATE

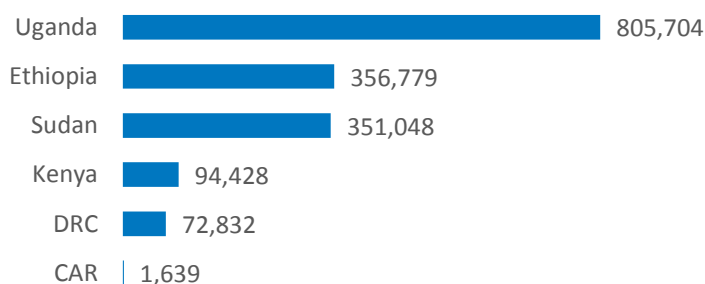
1 – 15 March 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

- Refugees, government counterparts and development and humanitarian partners in the region celebrated International Women’s Day on 8 March. UNHCR’s annual theme to commemorate the event was: "UNHCR Supports Women’s Right to Decent Work". The celebrations included a wide array of artistic and cultural performances, as well as awareness raising activities on issues related to preventing and responding to Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV).
- Over 61,000 new South Sudanese refugees fled South Sudan into neighbouring countries during the first half of March. The rate of new arrivals increased in Uganda to over 41,000 in the first two weeks of March, while Sudan received 10,000 new South Sudanese refugees during the same period. In Ethiopia, over 7,000 South Sudanese refugees newly arrived between 1 and 11 March, almost equal to the total new arrivals in the first two months of 2017.

Population of concern

A total of **1,682,430** South Sudanese refugees as of 15 March 2017



	New arrivals in 2016	New arrivals in 2017 (as of 15 Mar)
Ethiopia	53,661	16,129
Sudan	134,370	46,181
Uganda	489,234	166,862
Kenya	22,501	4,428
DRC	61,125	6,160
CAR	659	0
TOTAL	761,550	239,760

KEY FIGURES

239,760*

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

1,682,430*

Total South Sudanese refugees as of 15 March 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 223,019 people in UNMISS Protection of Civilians site

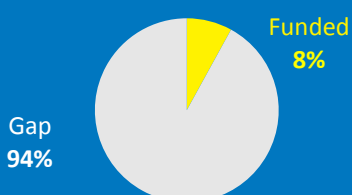
FUNDING

USD 781.8 M

Requested by UNHCR in 2017 for the South Sudan situation

USD 65.7 M

Received by UNHCR as of 15 Mar 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

- **On 17 March, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG), David Shearer, urged global pressure to end South Sudan conflict.** During a briefing to the African Union Peace and Security Council in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, he told the African Union that the situation in South Sudan continues to deteriorate and generate profound human suffering in which local and ethnic divisions have been exploited for political ends.
- **On Tuesday 14 March, a local NGO confirmed the death of 415 people from hunger in Ayod County in Jonglei region.** Mr. Thomas Tut Gany, the Director of Christian Mission for Development, said the deaths occurred in Pagiell, Tharmouth, Kandak, Padielk and Buot areas. According to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) update released by the government, three UN agencies and other humanitarian partners, some 100,000 people are facing starvation in parts of South Sudan where famine was declared on 20 February.

Achievements and Impact

- **Across South Sudan, UNHCR and its partners, in collaboration with refugees, host community and IDPs, celebrated the International Women's Day (IWD) on 8 March.** UNHCR and partners organized a series of events including drama, processions, songs and speeches that raised awareness on the importance of education for women and girls, ending violence against women and girls, peaceful co-existence, and gender equality.
- **In Juba, UNHCR launched the Biometric Identity Management System (BIMS) following staff training and simulation with the support of refugees.** BIMS allows the capture of ten fingerprints and two iris scans, in addition to a photo, providing support to the operation in preserving and protecting identities, strengthening the provision of protection services. BIMS will be gradually rolled out across the operation in 2017.
- **In Wau, Western Bahr el Ghazal, UNHCR distributed non-food items (NFIs) to 4,483 vulnerable IDPs.** The intervention comes after the government granted access to the Baggari area, which has been inaccessible to aid agencies since 2016. Thousands of IDPs settled in the area after conflict intensified around Wau in June 2016.
- **UNHCR undertook a protection-monitoring mission to Riimenze to assess the situation of 6,617 IDPs sheltering at the Catholic Church premises, who were displaced by fighting in nearby villages since 3 January 2017.** UNHCR briefed humanitarian actors in Yambio to respond to the identified priority needs, including food, NFIs, education and health facilities.
- **In Yusuf Batil and Doro camps, Upper Nile, UNHCR partner Relief International (RI) supported the formation of 11 Village Saving Loans Associations each comprising 20 members.** In Doro camp, UNHCR and partner RI also issued business startup kits to 43 refugees following entrepreneurship training and business pitch competitions.
- **In Maban, Upper Nile, 306 candidates, an estimated 75 per cent of whom are refugee students attending Bunj Secondary School, commenced the South Sudan Secondary School Certificate Examinations on 6 March.** UNHCR and its education partners Save the Children International (SCI), Lutheran's World Federation (LWF), and Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), in coordination with the County Education Office, facilitated the exams.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Latest Developments

- **UNHCR is in the process of verifying a reported 66 new South Sudanese refugee arrivals.** It is believed that some were joining their families who had already settled in Obo, whilst others are thought to have fled renewed violence in South Sudan during January 2017.

Achievements and Impact

- **UNHCR distributed sheets of sanitary cloth to 405 refugee women and girls.**
- **UNHCR, with the support of FAO, distributed seeds to the refugees to enable them to begin agricultural activities.** It is critical for the distribution to begin by March to prepare for the forthcoming planting season. Refugees received farming tools and households were allocated parcels of land. The hope is that the provision of assistance will enable refugees to initiate income generating activities to attain some degree of self-sufficiency, and prospects for income generation through spurring local trade, and improving food security. Since much of the refugee community are skilled in agriculture, they requested to be provided with access to more arable land. UNHCR is advocating to expand the allocated land available although this is subject to access right being granted and constraints due to security concerns as the site cannot be expanded beyond the radius in which regular armed safety patrols can be carried out.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Latest developments

- **New refugee arrivals from South Sudan were observed through protection monitoring conducted in the border localities of Ima, Kurukwata, Lasu, Lagabe, PK 18 and Mola.** During the reporting period, 1,303 newly arrived South Sudanese refugees were registered in DRC, most of them in Meri site (Faradje territory, Haut-Uele province). Refugees reported the destruction of fields and houses and fear of being killed by other ethnic groups as reasons for their flight.
- **On 10 March, the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) organized the first convoy from the border locality of Kurukwata to Meri site with 59 South Sudanese refugees.** This is the locality where most refugees are arriving. Additional transit infrastructures including hangars and latrines are urgently needed to accommodate them.
- **The security situation remains volatile in the territory of Dungu, which is one of the main refugee hosting areas for South Sudanese.**

Achievements and Impact

- **Protection:** On 27 February, the military authorities in Aba, together with CNR and UNHCR, held an awareness-raising session for the refugee leaders of Meri site, including refugee committee, block leaders, customary and religious leaders, about the planned response in case of infiltration of combatants into refugee sites. At Biringi site, some 302 people with specific needs (PSN) received food and NFIs, including clothes, shoes and soap.
- **Child protection:** A total of 51 unaccompanied children have been identified in Nambili (Doruma), and were followed up by UNHCR partner *Association pour le Développement Social et la Sauvegarde de l'Environnement* (ADSSE). Some children still required placement in a foster family and many children are in need of shoes, soap, sanitary napkins and other NFIs.
- **Education:** At Meri site, 283 children who attended languages classes are now ready to integrate into local schools.
- **WASH:** At Meri site, 77 new latrines and 72 showers were built for the new hangars. NGO Malteser completed 30 latrine blocks for the old hangars and 1,052 latrines are currently operational on the site.
- **Shelter:** At Meri site, 15 new hangars were set up to host new arrivals.
- **Community empowerment and self-reliance:** Agricultural self-reliance activities progressed in Meri and Biringi refugee sites and in the refugee settlements in Dungu territory. UNHCR's partners CNR, ADSSE and FAO delimited and distributed land plots, organised agricultural groups and training, and distributed tools.

ETHIOPIA

Latest developments

- **Between 1 and 15 March, UNHCR documented an increased number of refugee arrivals from South Sudan.** An average of 515 South Sudanese refugees arrived per day in Gambella. Of the new arrivals, the majority (91 per cent) have entered through Pagak, while the remaining 9 per cent entered through Akobo. The new arrivals originate mostly from Upper Nile and Jonglei States, as well as some from the Unity State. Refugees report sporadic fighting in some areas in Jonglei, Upper Nile State, drought conditions in South Sudan and education opportunities as their main reasons for flight.
- **The majority of the newly arrived refugees are accommodated in Nguenyiel camp, which was established in October 2016.** The camp currently hosts 42,543 refugees and has capacity for 60,000. At the current pace, Nguenyiel camp may reach capacity by May 2017. Accordingly UNHCR and partners are revising and updating the contingency plan to ensure preparedness in the case of a continued high influx of refugees from South Sudan into Ethiopia. A new site, straddling 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.
- **On 15 March, in Gog Woreda, unknown gunmen alleged to be of Murle ethnicity attacked the local population, killed 28 people from the host community and kidnapped some 43 children.** The regional government deployed a team to pursue the perpetrators to the South Sudan border. On 16 March, Ethiopian media reported that the Ethiopian security forces recovered six of the abducted children. The security situation in Gambella is currently calm but fragile.

Achievements and Impact

- **From 7 - 8 March, UNHCR hosted a DFID mission to assess the level of basic services being provided to refugees and understand some of the challenges.** The delegation was briefed by the Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) and UNHCR on the operation and then visited Jewi and Kule refugee camps where they had a group discussion with the Refugee Central Committee (RCC) and Women Association members. The refugees appreciated DFID and other donors' support to them. Both RCC and Women Association members urged for more support in terms of increase in food ration, improvement of health and education services.
- **During the reporting period, Assosa received 42 new South Sudanese refugee arrivals.** In Aberehamo reception centre, all South Sudanese new arrivals received high energy biscuits and water while waiting for transportation to Tsore camp. Upon arrival in the reception centre they were transported on the same day to Tsore refugee camp and subsequently registered on the same or following day. After registration the new arrivals were provided with monthly ration and core relief items.

KENYA

Latest developments

- **The operation continues to receive refugees from South Sudan at Nadapal Transit Centre on the Kenya – South Sudan border.** The majority of the new arrivals are women and children. New arrival refugees cite insecurity and famine as the cause of flight.
- **The population of Kalobeyei settlement now stands at 26,002 individuals, including 18,264 South Sudanese refugees.**
- **On 8 March, the refugee and host community in Kakuma and Kalobeyei celebrated International Women's Day.** The events were attended by different heads of agencies and women leaders and attracted thousands of participants. A similar celebration was held at the Safe-Haven space on 10 March.

Achievements and Impact

- **UNHCR conducted border-monitoring visits to Nadapal two to three times a week to ensure that asylum seekers had unhindered access to asylum procedures.** Emergency medical cases were transferred to African Inland Church (AIC) Mission, Lopiding Hospital in Lokichoggio or to Kakuma's Referral Hospital in Kakuma 4.
- **SGBV prevention and response activities were ongoing in Kakuma and Kalobeyei settlement.** A total of ten cases of SGBV among the South Sudanese refugee population were reported during the first half of March. Survivors received comprehensive medical and psychosocial support, as well as referral for legal and material support.

SUDAN

Latest developments

- **Between 1 and 15 March, over 10,000 South Sudanese refugees fled into Sudan**, arriving in the border states of White Nile, South and West Kordofan and East Darfur at an average daily rate of nearly 690 refugees per day. Since 1 January, over 46,000 refugees have arrived in Sudan in 2017, which exceeds average arrival trends observed in January through March in 2014 - 2016. This brings the total number of South Sudanese refugees to over 351,000 who have fled to Sudan since the start of the conflict in December 2013.
- **Following reports of cholera cases at the Malakal POC site, the state Ministry of Health in White Nile is preparing health screening and vaccination campaigns** for cholera and measles at border entry points and for refugees at existing sites in the state.
- **An inter-agency mission to Al Lait, North Darfur in February estimated that there are nearly 20,000 South Sudanese refugees living across ten locations.** The refugees entered Sudan through West Kordofan and have transited to North Darfur since May 2016, where they are living side by side with local host communities. UNHCR and Commission of Refugees (COR) are conducting Level 1 registration across the locality, followed by a general food distribution by WFP and NFI distribution by UNHCR to support needs.

Achievements and Impact

- **To date, over 10,885 individuals have been biometrically registered at Kario site in East Darfur.** New arrivals at the site are biometrically registered within two days of arrival. UNHCR and partners have developed mobile registration for new arrivals not living in camp locations in East Darfur.
- **Ongoing verification of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) and children with specific needs continues across all refugee sites in White Nile.** State social workers are verifying the children in coordination with community volunteers, with a total of 721 UASC and 30 children with specific needs verified. Additionally, protection partners have identified 45 foster families to support care arrangements.

UGANDA

Latest developments

- **The rate of new arrivals into Uganda increased in the first two weeks of March, with a total of 41,378 South Sudanese refugees received in Uganda**, compared to 18,854 in the previous two weeks. An average of 2,956 refugees crossed the border into Uganda each day, with 5,116 recorded in a single day on 9 March.
- **Refugees arriving in Uganda, the majority of whom are women and children, report fleeing the country due to the worsening security situation in South Sudan**, citing incidents of looting, killing, abduction of youths and harassment of civilians by armed groups. Refugees interviewed at Lamwo cited clashes between armed groups, particularly in Torit and Kapoeta, forcing people in the affected areas to cross to Uganda.
- **New arrivals continue to be relocated to Imvepi settlement in Arua district**, which is now home to 19,721 South Sudanese refugees. A total of 2,066 plots have been allocated to 1,946 families, 132.5 km of road has been opened, and work is ongoing to open additional roads.
- **In Lamwo district, the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) obtained a written agreement from the landowners of Ogili Sub-County in Palabek for the use of their land for refugee settlement.** The land has capacity to host approximately 30,000 persons, and talks are ongoing with landowners in neighbouring sub-counties to expand the site in order to increase capacity. Site planning and assessment of the proposed site are ongoing.
- **Pending full-scale readiness of a new settlement in Lamwo district, Palorinya Reception Centre continues to receive refugees from Elegu, Afogi and Lefori border points**, mostly persons with special needs and refugees seeking reunification with their family members in Palorinya settlement.
- **International Women's Day was celebrated across the settlements on 8 March.** Under the theme of 'Be Bold for Change: Women in the Changing World of Work' refugee women and girls led activities including radio talk shows, music, dance, drama, and speeches by refugees, local government and humanitarian actors.

Achievements and Impact

- **Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) Response and Prevention:** In Imvepi, 39 cases of SGBV were identified, of which 32 occurred in South Sudan. All survivors received psychological first aid counselling and will be followed up. In Bidibidi, 20 new cases of SGBV were reported and the survivors supported with the appropriate services. All

cases of sexual and physical violence were reported to the police and four perpetrators were apprehended. In Adjumani, 28 cases of SGBV were reported; the survivors supported and two perpetrators prosecuted. In Imvepi, 1,502 refugees were reached through 48 SGBV community outreach sessions. In Palorinya, SGBV awareness campaigns reached 6,354 people.

- **Child Protection:** In Imvepi, 103 children at risk were identified and referred for services including psychosocial counselling, food and shelter assistance, and twelve child protection awareness sessions were conducted at the reception centre. In Palorinya, 74 children at risk were identified and assisted. In Adjumani, 195 unaccompanied children from the settlements of Pagirinya and Boroli will be supported with monthly cash grants of UGX 150,000 per month for one year. The cash will help them with maintenance costs to reduce the burden on foster parents.
- **Persons with Specific Needs (PSN):** In Imvepi, identification of vulnerable refugees in need of shelter assistance is ongoing; 495 PSN shelters were constructed and allocated. In Bidibidi, shoes were distributed to 7,460 PSNs with different vulnerabilities and 160 PSN shelters were constructed. In Adjumani, sixteen PSNs were assessed to identify their needs and supported with NFIs. Home visits were conducted for 93 PSNs across the settlements.
- **Education:** In Imvepi, community mobilization for school enrolment commenced and a site has been cleared for establishment of a new primary school in Zone 2. In Bidibidi, total enrolment of children in primary, secondary and Early Childhood Development (ECD) has increased to 66,161 children. In Palorinya, 13,380 children are registered for ECD classes and recruitment of 66 caregivers was completed. 34,430 children are registered for primary education, of which 12,832 are enrolled. 12,415 children are registered for secondary education, of which 1,899 are enrolled in Itula Secondary School. 2,333 youth are registered for vocational training.
- **Health:** The leading causes of illness across the settlements were malaria, respiratory tract infections and Acute Watery Diarrhea. In Imvepi, 6,573 children were immunized against polio, 14,890 against measles, and 4,500 received Tenatun Toxoid, Vitamin A and deworming.
- **Nutrition:** In Imvepi, 5,689 children under five were screened for malnutrition, of which fifteen were severely malnourished and 71 were moderately malnourished. Some 1,005 pregnant and lactating women were also screened, of which 55 were moderately malnourished. All were referred for treatment. In Adjumani, 84 children were discharged from the feeding program, having regained their health, and 795 acutely malnourished and 1,260 moderately malnourished children are still enrolled in the program. In Bidibidi, a total of 2,192 children aged six to 59 months are in the feeding programs; 221 pregnant and lactating women were also enrolled in the nutrition program. A total of 1,811 under-fives are enrolled in the nutrition centres in Bidibidi for rehabilitation.

CRITICAL NEEDS AND PRIORITIES

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Education: At Meri site, 777 refugee children are not supported with payment for school fees. UNHCR will be able to support 360 pupils in 2017, but a gap remains for the 417 additional students.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: At Meri site, the existing water system is insufficient and there is the need for water storage systems.

Shelter: There is a shortage of individual shelters at the Meri site due to ongoing arrivals, as the site was design to host a maximum of 15,000 refugees.

ETHIOPIA

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: Reliable and sufficient supply of water is a critical gap in the operation. Per capita water supply in Jewi, Pugnido and Okugo camps has reached the minimum emergency standard of 15 litres per person per day (l/p/d) while Tierkidi and Kule camps are receiving 13 l/p/d and 14 l/p/d, respectively. The daily per capita supply in Nguenyiel camp and Pagak reception center is significantly lower with 10 l/p/d each, due to the significant distances covered by water trucking and the low capacity of existing pumps.

Shelter: Shelter remains another major need, as 52 per cent of the South Sudanese refugee households in Gambella do not have adequate shelter.

SOUTH SUDAN

Food security and nutrition: In Lasu refugee settlement, Central Equatoria, refugees continue to lack food in their hideouts as UNHCR and partners cannot access the settlement due to insecurity on the road to Lasu Payam. The insecurity is also hampering the delivery of vegetable seeds and other livelihood assistance.

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, gaps in youth programming need addressing. 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. Additional teachers and classroom assistants are required to improve pupil to teacher ratios. In Bidibidi Zones 3, 4 and 5, there is an urgent need to install water storage tanks in primary schools.

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 are needed. One ambulance and construction of maternal health facilities are required in Palorinya. In Bidibidi, additional ambulances and motorbikes to increase health service coverage.

Food Security and Nutrition: 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 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.

Shelter, Infrastructure and Distribution: In Palorinya, soap for handwashing and water storage container cleaning, 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.

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Links:

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