



# SOUTH SUDAN SITUATION

South Sudanese women wait to register their newborns at Jewi refugee camp, Ethiopia.

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The South Sudanese refugee population remains the largest in the region and is one of the most vulnerable. Whether in camps, settlements or urban areas, some 2.3 million refugees are living in extremely precarious conditions, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite border closures, lockdowns and other movement restrictions, a steady flow of new South Sudanese arrivals in asylum countries continues to be reported. Most refugees face high levels of poverty, limited access to livelihood opportunities, and are hosted in some of the poorest areas, where communities are already struggling to meet basic needs. Some 1.6 million people are internally displaced in South Sudan.

UNHCR's overall requirements for the South Sudan situation in 2020 stand at \$720.9 million. As of 25 August 2020, \$67.7 million has been received. Flexible and country-level funds received by UNHCR have allowed the organization to allocate an additional \$171.8 million to the South Sudan situation, raising the current funding level to 33%. These low funding levels have forced UNHCR's operations in South Sudan and in neighbouring countries to cut programmes across a range of sectors, including health, livelihoods, infrastructure and solutions, with further cuts anticipated in the second half of 2020.

## AFFECTED COUNTRIES

## KEY POPULATION DATA (AS OF 30 JUNE 2020)

**2.3 million** refugees and asylum-seekers

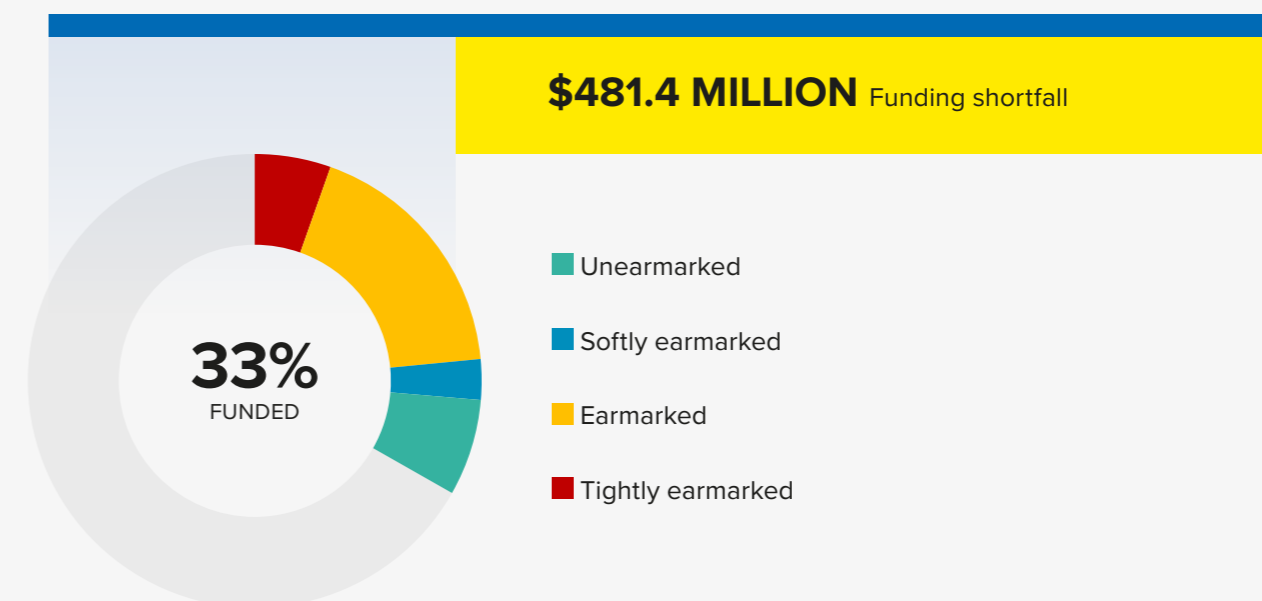
**1.6 million** IDPs

**289,650** self-organized returnees since 2017 (about 100,000 in 2019)



## \$720.9 MILLION

UNHCR's financial requirements 2020, as of 25 August 2020



# Activities that have already been reduced or cut as a consequence of underfunding

## Health care in Uganda



Underfunding has required UNHCR to reduce the number of health workers in all settlements hosting South Sudanese refugees in Uganda since the start of 2020. The reduction increased the workload of remaining health workers, who in some locations consult 70 patients per day (compared to a standard of below 50), creating a risk of burnout, attrition and lesser quality of care. Underfunding has also limited the procurement of needed medicines, which may contribute to preventable deaths and loss of confidence in the health-care system.

**Number of impacted beneficiaries:**  
876,981 individuals

**Funding needed:**  
\$4.6 million

## Durable solutions in South Sudan



Recent developments in South Sudan require UNHCR to significantly scale up leadership and preparedness measures for the return of millions of refugees. As of June 2020, due to funding restrictions UNHCR's response has been limited to technical support to the Government for the drafting of the national framework for returns, reintegration and relocation and the establishment of a return monitoring mechanism at 37 border points and in some key return areas. While identification of gaps in community-based support in return areas has taken place, funding to implement these quick-impact projects has been limited.

**Number of impacted beneficiaries:**  
100,000 individuals

**Funding needed:**  
\$800,000

## Infrastructure and road improvement in Ethiopia



Since July 2020, access road maintenance in Nguenyiel, Tierkidi and Okugo camps in the Gambelle region of Ethiopia has not progressed due to underfunding. With the onset of the rains, parts of the camps in Tierkidi and Okugo become inaccessible affecting the delivery of services and emergency medical responses. Access roads in the Nguenyiel camp need urgent maintenance to prevent parts of the camp from being cut off.

**Number of impacted beneficiaries:**  
200,000 individuals

**Funding needed:**  
Road maintenance \$600,000;  
Other infrastructure \$1.2 million

JANUARY

JUNE

JULY

## Livelihoods in the Democratic Republic of the Congo



Since January 2020, due to a shortfall in funding, livelihood interventions have been reduced in three camps hosting South Sudanese refugees in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Meri, Bili and Biringi). Only 27% of South Sudanese refugees are benefitting from livelihood support, which is limited to the agricultural sector.

**Number of impacted beneficiaries:**  
7,000 households

**Funding needed:**  
\$3.5 million

## Infrastructure and road improvement in Kenya



As of July 2020, due to shortfalls in funding, various infrastructure and road improvement projects within Kalobeyi and Kakuma camps in Kenya have been deprioritized or suspended. Poor road conditions and lack of adequate storage facilities have complicated access and assistances to refugees. Significant amounts have been spent on repair and maintenance of vehicles rather than direct assistance to beneficiaries.

**Number of impacted beneficiaries:**  
122,000 refugees and  
30,000 host community members.

**Funding needed:**  
\$1.5 million

## Activities that could be reduced or cut from August 2020

### Shelter in the Democratic Republic of the Congo



As of October 2020, due to the shortfall in funding a reduction in shelter assistance for individuals with specific needs in three camps hosting South Sudanese refugees in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Meri, Bili and Biringi) is expected. This reduction will significantly increase protection risks, forcing refugees to live in the open or to resort to negative coping mechanisms.

**Number of impacted beneficiaries:**  
3,000 households

**Funding needed:**  
\$2.3 million

### Child protection and mental health in Uganda



Child protection and psychosocial case management services in settlements hosting South Sudanese refugees have been scaled down since the beginning of 2020 due to lack of funding. This situation will continue to persist in the second half of 2020 without additional funding. The reduction in the number of case workers will result in children at risk not receiving home monitoring visits, with the caseworker to child ratio of 1:300 dramatically higher than the international standard of 1:25. Mental health issues and suicide will continue to rise among refugees in part due to lack of mental health services.

**Number of impacted beneficiaries:**  
55,750 children at risk and 45,000 individuals with mental health and psychosocial support needs

**Funding needed:**  
\$1.2 million

### Support to new arrivals in Ethiopia



Lack of funding will leave UNHCR unable to strengthen and expand shelter and services to respond to the large number of new arrivals at the Pagak reception centre in Gambella, Ethiopia. Required activities include expansion of the facility, provision of food, support to unaccompanied and separated children, relocation to refugee camps and rehabilitation of shelters in the receiving camps. The risk of further spread of COVID-19 among the population remains high, with the centre congested and sanitation and hygiene rapidly deteriorating.

**Number of impacted beneficiaries:**  
8,900 new arrivals

**Funding needed:**  
\$2 million

### Durable solutions for IDPs in South Sudan



In a context of declining funds and a steady increase in the IDP population in South Sudan, UNHCR will have to deprioritize solutions-focused activities for IDPs in the second half of 2020 in order to cover lifesaving and protection interventions, including for the newly displaced. UNHCR will not be able to carry out envisioned quick-impact projects that would include housing, livelihoods and area-based co-existence initiatives to ensure sustainable returns.

**Number of impacted beneficiaries:**  
200,000 IDPs

**Funding needed:**  
\$1.4 million

### Family latrines programme in Kenya



Cash assistance for families to construct improved latrines in the Kalobeyei settlement will not be implemented in the second half 2020 without additional funding. Refugees remain in substandard and undignified living conditions. The use of communal latrines exposes them to environmental hazards and communicable diseases including COVID-19.

**Number of impacted beneficiaries:**  
1,500 families (7,500 refugees)

**Funding needed:**  
\$350,000

## SPOTLIGHT: BEYOND THE NUMBERS

Siblings Nyamach and Nyakoang Lul are among more than 42,000 South Sudanese refugee children in Ethiopia who are either unaccompanied or separated from their parents or guardians. After fighting broke out in their hometown of Guel Guk, Upper Nile State, Nyamach and her younger sister, 13-year-old Nyakoang, fled to safety in Ethiopia. For the past four years, the Lul sisters have made a home for themselves in Jewi, one of seven camps hosting more than 300,000 South Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia's Gambella region. South Sudan's conflict has had a devastating impact on children, who account for over half of the more than two million South Sudanese living in exile.

In Ethiopia, most refugee children live with their families, but a significant number – more than 42,000 – are either unaccompanied or separated. Lack of funding has left UNHCR unable to respond to the large number of new arrivals at the Pagak reception centre, including strengthening support services for unaccompanied and separated children, like the Lul sisters.

*“We take care of one another – it’s just the two of us”*

*- Nyamach Lul*



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