SOUTH SUDAN SITUATION

November 2025

Newly arrived refugees gather in large numbers in Tormorok, having moved from Moun and Matar, as they await registration and relocation to Luakdong Refugee site, Gambella region of Ethiopia. © UNHCR/Reath Rick Thot.

Highlights

- Since February 2025, some 205,000 South Sudanese have sought refuge in countries neighboring South Sudan, including an estimated 45,000 in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), 50,000 in Ethiopia, 76,000 in Sudan, and 34,000 in Uganda. This number adds to 2.4 million South Sudanese refugees displaced before 2025.

- South Sudan continues to experience severe and widespread flooding, with conditions worsening across multiple states and particularly affecting people recently displaced by conflict. As of 30 November, flooding had impacted more than 1.35 million people across 39 counties in eight states, with nearly 375,600 individuals displaced. This is the fifth consecutive year of severe flooding, leading to extensive inundation of homes, farmland and critical infrastructure. According to the latest Floods Predictive Outlook, floodwaters are expected to continue receding through November and December, supported by below-average rainfall.

Situation and Operational Response

SOUTH SUDAN

Highlights

- South Sudan continues to face severe and widespread flooding, with conditions deteriorating across multiple states. UNHCR has scaled up life-saving assistance in Unity, Jonglei and the Greater Pibor Administrative Area, supporting flood-affected communities with core relief items, the rehabilitation of dikes and flood mitigation sensitization.
- Armed confrontations have continued amid ongoing political uncertainty and leadership challenges within the government.
- On 14 November, suspected armed opposition groups attacked Adong Payam, Baliet County, Upper Nile State, killing 57 people, including 14 children, and injuring 66 others. The attackers also reportedly raided cattle. Fears of reprisals have led to increased deployment of South Sudan People's Defense Forces (SSPDF) in the area. The incident underscores the deteriorating security situation and the spread of violence into areas that were previously considered stable.

Population Movements

Some 326,000 people have been newly displaced within South Sudan, while a further 205,000 have fled to neighboring countries. UNHCR's response remains severely constrained by limited access, due to ongoing fighting and insecurity along key routes.

In November, 42 households (495 individuals) were recorded crossing from South Sudan into Ethiopia through the Jekow, Pagak, Pil, Maker and Makak border points. These movements were reportedly triggered by renewed aerial bombardments on 19 November in Doma Payam, Ulang County, Upper Nile State. In addition, more than 12,000 people are estimated to have been displaced to Baliet Town, Nyongrial and Mijok following the 14 November attack in Adong Payam, Baliet County, Upper Nile State. The attack has further fueled displacement and heightened concerns about possible retaliatory violence.

UNHCR Protection team in Bor met with the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) County Coordinator for Ayod County, Jonglei State, who reported significant new displacement. More than 16,220 individuals have fled Pigi/Canal and Fangak to Ayod town due to conflict, while a further 19,774 people have been displaced by flooding from neighboring payams/sub-counties and bomas/villages. The coordinator underscored a critical gap, noting the absence of protection partners on the ground despite the high reported incidents of gender-based violence (GBV).

Protection

From 3 to 5 November, UNHCR and partners conducted an IDP vulnerability assessment in Pigi County (Jonglei) and Panyikang County (Upper Nile). The mission profiled and registered vulnerable persons affected by flooding and conflict in Canal, Mareng Khorfulus, Dolieb, Ashabnil and Phanom. A total of 440 households were registered and six key informant interviews were conducted, amidst extensive displacement caused by rising water levels.

The closure of activities by UNHCR's partner, the Humanitarian Development Consortium (HDC), in Fangak, Nyirol, Uror, Mingkaman, and Ayod counties is due to a lack of access since fighting began in March and the current funding situation. This has significantly disrupted protection interventions in those locations. This gap has reduced community outreach, weakened case management capacity and hindered the monitoring of human rights violations, particularly affecting IDPs and returnees in areas with security risks and flood hazards.

Non-food items (NFIs)

Inter-agency rapid assessments confirm that floods have displaced 104,338 people across Fashoda (8,690), Pigi/Pinyikang (73,648) and Fangak (22,000) counties in Upper Nile and Jonglei States. UNHCR continues to implement protection activities alongside partner responses: flood-preparedness messaging reached 3,576 people and 60 individuals were trained on early warning systems. NFIs were distributed to 1,350 households; and sanitary pads were provided to 800 women and girls of reproductive age.

UNHCR also delivered NFIs to 105 flood-affected households in Mareng Payam, Pigi County. The assistance included plastic sheets, blankets, sleeping mats, jerrycans, kitchen sets and washing soap.

From 19 to 20 November 2025, UNHCR's team in Malakal conducted a monitoring mission to Lul, Kodok and Wau Shilluk, Fashoda County, Upper Nile State to assess escalating humanitarian needs resulting from severe flooding, internal displacement and gaps in basic services, particularly shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and mobility support. The mission confirmed critical gaps in shelter and essential services and delivered 35 family tents to Lul. The Payam Administrator reported approximately 500 newly displaced households in Wau Shilluk in urgent need of shelter, NFIs and other basic assistance.

Cash Assistance

UNHCR in Bor profiled and registered 374 individuals (317 women and 75 men) with specific needs, affected by flooding and conflict, for cash assistance.

ETHIOPIA

Highlights

- Relocation of registered refugees to Luakdong site remains suspended. 21,333 refugees have been relocated to the site prior to the suspension of relocation on 18 October 2025.
- This reporting period was marked by accelerated flood mitigation works and road construction at Luakdong. For the first time, the access road to Luakdong allowed refugees to access the site without wading through floodwaters.

Population Movements and Registration

The Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) and UNHCR pursued Level 1 registration for newly arrived asylum-seekers and refugees, capturing basic personal details and preliminary data.

Level 1 (L1) registration at the Tormorok registration centre was suspended on 8 November due to flooding and remained on hold throughout the reporting period. Consequently, the registered refugee population remains at 49,751 individuals. Screening for persons with specific needs continues at Tormorok, while relocation to the site also remains suspended.

Protection

Despite ongoing access and relocation constraints, protection activities in Luakdong continued in partnership with Plan International. Interventions focused on child protection and gender-based violence (GBV), with continued community awareness-raising and capacity-building on protection risks, GBV and child protection. The GBV Information Management System (GBVIMS), a case management tool, has been adopted for the emergency response, and staff training is scheduled to begin shortly.

Concerns were raised about adolescents engaging in alcohol and other substance use as negative coping mechanisms. In response, targeted sensitization activities are planned to address the situation and promote positive alternatives.

During the reporting period, Refugee Central Committees in Luakdong and Tormorok held new elections to renew their mandates, thereby strengthening refugee representation and community governance structures.

A protection capacity-building programme was carried out, comprising a three-day GBV case management training and a five-day child protection case management training. Participants included case workers from RRS, Action Africa Help International (AAH), Development for Peace Organization (DPO), International Rescue Committee (IRC), World Vision, Development Expertise Centre (DEC) and the Gambella Regional Bureau for Women and Social Affairs (BOWSA). The trainings focused on practical skills, a survivor-centered approach to GBV response and best-interests-of-the-child case management.

The 16 Days of Activism campaign was launched on 25 November in both Luakdong and Tormorok, with a focus on ending violence, promoting gender equality and strengthening the representation and participation of women and girls within refugee communities.

Site Development, Shelter, Non-food Items (NFIs)

A total of 2.25 km of the base layer of the access road to Luakdong has been completed. Flood mitigation works are ongoing, with 0.9 km of a 1.5-metre-high dyke constructed near the river closest to Luakdong. Shelter activities remain on hold pending the completion of flood mitigation measures in the site. In parallel, land has been demarcated for the construction of permanent service delivery structures.

On 11 November, AAHI completed the distribution of 10,762 mosquito nets to 3,475 households in Tormorok as part of the malaria response. Following the completion of the general food distribution (GFD), AAHI will resume and complete the remaining mosquito net distribution.

Health & Nutrition

Vaccination and supplementation activities continued for new arrivals. *Collegio Universitario Aspiranti Medici Missionari* (CUAMM) and GOAL operated primary healthcare (PHC) facilities in Tormorok, with CUAMM also providing PHC services in Muon, while DPO continued to run PHC services in Luakdong. During the reporting period, 13 new cholera cases were identified and treated at the IRC-run Cholera Treatment Centre in Tormorok. In contrast, no new cases had been detected during the first two weeks of November, reflecting the impact of mitigation measures. The Cholera Treatment Centre constructed by IRC in Tormorok was partially flooded.

During the reporting period, community health workers reached approximately 10,000 people with cholera and malaria prevention messages. No cases of Marburg virus disease (MVD) have been reported in the Gambella region, and preparedness efforts are ongoing.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

During the first half of November, the water supply in Luakdong reached 14.2 litres per person per day, slightly below the minimum Sphere standard of 15 liters per person per day, and increased to 17.07 litres per person per day in the second half of the month. In addition, the pipeline from the water treatment facility to the Luakdong junction was completed, bringing an end to water trucking to Luakdong, although water trucking continues to Tormorok.

Latrine construction continued in both Luakdong and Tormorok. During the reporting period, 34 additional shared latrines were constructed, bringing the total to 56. World Toilet Day was marked on 19 November in Tormorok with events organized by IRC to promote toilet use as a key public health measure.

Hygiene promotion activities continue to be implemented by Oxfam and Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), through 57 hygiene promoters, with a focus on disease prevention. In parallel, hygiene campaigns have been sustained in Luakdong and Tormorok, promoting safe water consumption, cholera prevention, jerrycan cleaning, environmental sanitation, and the cleaning and maintenance of latrines.

SUDAN

Highlights

- 317 South Sudanese refugees arrived in Sudan in November 2025, bringing the total number of new arrivals in 2025 to 75,982. The majority (43 per cent) are hosted in White Nile State, followed by Blue Nile (23 per cent), South Kordofan (14 per cent), West Kordofan (12 per cent), and East Darfur, with smaller proportions arriving in South and North Darfur States.
- Over 132,730 Sudanese have returned from South Sudan as of end-November 2025. Estimated 90,000 have settled in the Al Karama gathering sites in Blue Nile State, while others have returned to their areas of origin, where access to essential services remains limited.

Population Movement

Since the start of relocations from Khartoum, 2,974 South Sudanese refugees had been relocated to White Nile as of end-November.

Registration and Relocation

The temporary suspension of registration and border monitoring in Joda, Al Megenis, and Um Jalala in White Nile State has limited the ability to track cross-border movements, and the reduction in reported figures is likely linked to decreased monitoring rather than reduced movement.

In November, 638 South Sudanese refugees were relocated from Khartoum to White Nile bringing the total relocated to 2,974. Upon arrival, they received hot meals and were accommodated in existing camps. Despite ongoing challenges like limited space in existing camps and access constraints due to the rainy season approximately 40,000 South Sudanese refugees are expected to be relocated to White Nile State.

UNHCR and partners are undertaking enrolment at household level to facilitate assistance provision, and intentions surveys, among Sudanese returnees from South Sudan in Blue Nile. UNHCR and the

Commission of Refugees Sudan (COR) are also conducting paper-based enrolment of new refugee arrivals in Tadamon and Bau localities to facilitate access to WFP food assistance. UNHCR emphasizes that the availability of reliable data is essential for effective protection, assistance planning, and coordination with partners.

Protection

In White Nile State, refugee camps are facing critical overcrowding, with eight (8) out of ten (10) camps hosting people at double their intended capacity. This extreme congestion has significantly increased health, sanitation, and protection risks, as space for new shelters and essential services is nearly exhausted. Additionally, local host communities are opposing further expansion of the camps, especially in areas where the refugee population has now surpassed that of the host communities.

In Kario camp, East Darfur State, UNHCR's partner provided cash assistance to 45 newly arrived South Sudanese refugee households to help meet their urgent protection and basic needs.

Health and Nutrition

Cholera outbreaks have been reported in areas hosting new arrivals, as well as in surrounding locations in White Nile. UNHCR, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, WHO, UNICEF, and other partners, continues to respond; however, significant gaps persist in both health and WASH interventions. In White Nile State, cholera transmission continued during November, though at lower levels than in previous months. The Ministry of Health reported 45 suspected cases - an average of seven cases per week - marking a significant decrease compared to the 237 cases recorded in October 2025.

Since the onset of this wave of the epidemic in September 2024, a cumulative 14,476 suspected cases and 476 deaths have been registered in White Nile, resulting in a Case Fatality Rate (CFR) of 3.3 percent, well above both the WHO emergency threshold of 1 percent and the national average of 2.8 percent due to gaps in case management, particularly during the early phase of the outbreak. In refugee camps, no new suspected cholera cases were recorded in November 2025, compared to one in October 2025. The last reported refugee case was on 2 October 2025, in Alagaya camp. Since the epidemic was first declared in refugee locations in October 2024, a total of 274 suspected cases and one death have been reported among refugees, with no new fatalities recorded this month.

In November 2025, health facilities in White Nile refugee camps provided 33,385 outpatient consultations (67.9% refugees; 32.1% host community/IDPs), marking a significant reduction of 29.8% compared to October. The highest reported morbidities were malaria, respiratory tract infections, acute diarrhea, and skin infection. Cumulatively, between January to November 2025, a total of 331,144 medical consultations have been registered, including 230,094 refugees (69.5%) and 101,050 nationals (30.5%).

Food Security

In White Nile, by the end of the month, refugees had not yet received the November 2025 General Food Distribution (GFD) through the voucher-based Cash-Based Transfer (CBT) system from WFP. As previously noted, the transition to CBT has been delayed primarily due to pipeline constraints, compounded by other operational factors, including resistance from host communities to the new distribution modality, preferring the traditional in-kind food distribution system.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

In White Nile State, UNHCR and partners provided access to clean water for South Sudanese new arrivals, as well as refugees and host communities, reaching an estimated 497,529 people. This was achieved through the maintenance of 10 existing water systems, complemented by water trucking in Al Jamyia camp to meet the additional needs of new arrivals and relocated secondary movers.

UGANDA

Highlights

- In November, 86 per cent of registered arrivals were women and children, with those under 18 years accounting for 63 per cent and children under 12 years representing 54 per cent. Males represented 45 per cent and females 55 per cent of arrivals.
- Most new arrivals reported fleeing South Sudan due to hunger, tribal conflicts, ongoing wars and in search of better health and education services.

Registration

In November 2025, a total of 1,810 South Sudanese individuals were newly registered in Uganda. Since January 2025, a total of 46,642 South Sudanese have arrived in the country.

Health and Nutrition

There were 40,099 outpatient department consultations recorded across Imvepi, Rhino Camp and Bidibidi settlements, where most South Sudanese refugees are settled, reflecting a decrease from 45,886 consultations in October. Gastrointestinal disorders were the leading cause of morbidity in Imvepi , while respiratory tract infections were the main cause of morbidity at Rhino Camp and Bidibidi.

Across the same settlements, 2,085 inpatient admissions were reported, with malaria remaining the leading cause of hospitalization. In addition, 31 new tuberculosis (TB) cases were registered in November, down from 64 cases in October, indicating a decline in TB detections across the three settlements.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

In Bidibidi settlement, water supply challenges persisted throughout the reporting period due to fuel shortages for generator backup, vandalism of solar systems, frequent inverter failures and declining well yields. Consequently, the average water supply remained low at 14.2 liters per person per day, leaving a gap of 5.8 liters per person per day against minimum non-emergency standards. To mitigate these shortages, 160,000 litres of water were trucked to the most affected areas, while partners installed new solar inverters and submersible motors in two zones to stabilize production. Additional measures included repairing leakages, replacing faulty taps and conducting routine water quality testing.

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Highlights

- Persistent insecurity and armed clashes in Morobo District, South Sudan, continues to drive increasing numbers of refugees to cross into Aru Territory in Ituri Province.
- UNHCR and the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) launched registration and relocation activities in Kakwa and Kaliko-Omi chiefdoms, Ituri Province, using the Upepeni registration site as the main hub. The launch was officiated by the Administrator of Aru Territory, who urged refugees to take part in the exercise to obtain documentation, access protection services and relocate to government-approved sites.
- Funding shortfalls continues to significantly constrain the scale-up of life-saving assistance, including registration and relocation activities, and targeted support for persons with specific needs.

Population Movements

To date, the CNR has profiled 33,211 South Sudanese refugees from 6,642 households in Okaba, Gole, and Arile/Ulendere, Ituri Province.

New arrivals continue to cross the border, and indications are that approximately 9,000 unprofiled asylum seekers are dispersed across at least nine localities within the Kaliko and Kakwa chiefdoms, Ituri Province, with many remaining in border-adjacent areas.

Registration and Relocation

During the first two weeks of registration and relocation, turnout at the registration site was lower than anticipated, influenced by household livelihood activities and the school calendar. Through community feedback mechanisms, it was reported that some families postponed registration to complete crop harvesting and allow children to finish the school term. These delays reduced registration coverage and prolonged exposure to protection risks in insecure border areas. At the same time, health and nutrition concerns have been reported among relocated populations, as well as cases of unaccompanied and separated children.

Following intensified sensitization efforts and strengthened coordination with community leaders and refugee representatives, registration uptake has improved with more than 1,400 individuals registered and relocated. The average daily registration had increased from around 60 individuals to over 350 per day.

Protection

With the ongoing registration activities, to date, more than 200 persons with specific needs have been identified, registered and relocated to the Adumi relocation site, where they continue to receive hot meals, NFIs and shelter assistance.

UNHCR conducted sensitization sessions for 18 local authorities and community auxiliaries on international protection principles and PSEA, including child protection considerations and procedures for identifying and referring unaccompanied and separated children.

Limited child protection capacity and the fixed registration timeframe create risks of incomplete coverage and the exclusion of vulnerable individuals, including those already identified as persons with specific needs.

Health

Health and nutrition remain the most critical gaps in the response. The nearest health facility is located approximately five kilometres from the Adumi relocation site, and no health partner or mobile clinic is currently operational on-site or in the immediate vicinity. This significantly restricts access to essential health services, particularly for children and pregnant and lactating women.

Preliminary observations suggest an increase in cases of acute malnutrition among children. The presence of unaccompanied and separated children, together with the identification of 200 persons with specific needs, further heightens protection risks and underscores the urgent need to strengthen health, nutrition and protection services, including the mobilization of additional partners.

u

Shelter

Shelter construction for all households is ongoing, with priority given to persons with specific needs.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

At Adumi relocation site, UNHCR has established WASH facilities, including two protected water springs and gender-sensitive communal latrines.

KENYA

Kenya has not observed any spike in new arrivals from South Sudan but continues to receive new refugees from Somalia, Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Burundi.

Response Plans and Funding Situation

South Sudan: Preparedness and Initial Response Needs, May – October 2025

UNHCR is seeking $36.25 million to strengthen preparedness and deliver initial life-saving protection and assistance to up to 40,000 new IDPs in South Sudan and up to 303,000 new refugees, asylum seekers, and returnees in neighboring countries.

Resources

- UNHCR's Operational Data Portal (ODP) for the South Sudan Situation provides weekly updates on the refugee and returnee arrivals in South Sudan's neighbouring countries.
- South Sudan: Preparedness and initial Response needs, May – October 2025.

UNHCR is grateful for the support of:

TIGHTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS

SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS

Australia | Australia for UNHCR | Austria | Canada | Denmark | Finland | Germany | Ireland | Italy | Latvia | Luxembourg | Norway | Private donors | Republic of Korea | South Africa | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | UK for UNHCR | United States of America | UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS

Algeria | Armenia | Australia | Austria | Belgium | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Denmark | Estonia | España con ACNUR | Finland | France | Germany | Iceland | Ireland | Italy (Private donors in Italy) | Japan for UNHCR | Kazakhstan | Kuwait | Liechtenstein | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Malta | Mexico | Monaco | Montenegro | Netherlands (Kingdom of the) | Netherlands (Private donors in the Netherlands) | New Zealand | Norway | Peru | Philippines | Private donors | Private donors in Italy | Private donors in the Netherlands | Private donors in the Republic of Korea | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Private donors in the Republic of Korea | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Slovakia | Spain | Sweden | Sweden for UNHCR | Switzerland | Thailand | United Arab Emirates | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | Uruguay

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency | CORE

SOUTH SUDAN SITUATION

Displacement Overview

as of 08 Dec 2025

Context

UNHCR is closely monitoring the displacement and protection situation in South Sudan, following a sharp escalation of violence and insecurity since February 2025.

While the armed conflict concentrated in Upper Nile State and Jonglei State, there are pockets of fighting in other parts of the country, triggering population movements both within South Sudan and across its borders.

Since March, some 205,000 people have sought refuge in neighbouring countries, including an estimated 76,000 in the Sudan, about 45,000 in DRC, 50,000 in Ethiopia, and around 34,000 in Uganda. Within South Sudan, DTM and RRC reports that approximately 326,000 people have been newly displaced in all locations affected by the conflict since February 2025.

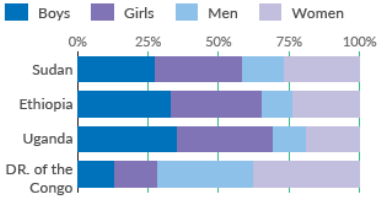
Key figures

205K
New arrivals from South Sudan

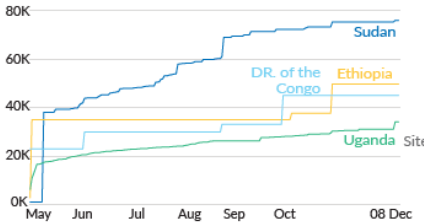
55%
of new arrivals are children

326K
Estimated new IDPs

Age and gender breakdown of new arrivals



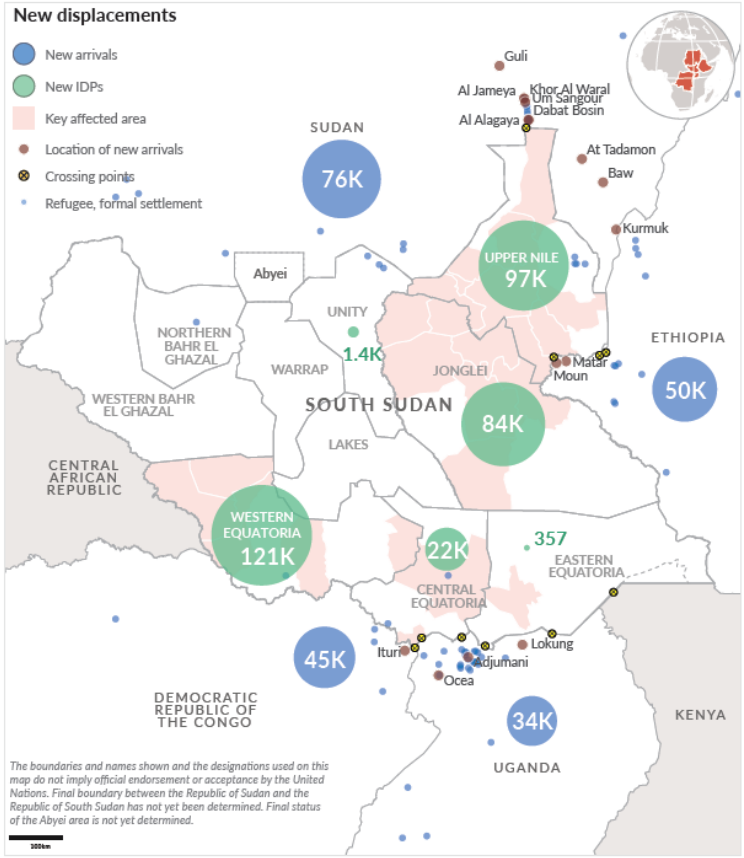
Cumulative new arrivals in neighbouring countries



Number of partners per country and sector

Sector	DRC	ETH	SDN	UGA
Coordination		2		2
Education	1		1	2
First Aid			4	
Food Security		4	2	2
Health/Nutrition		8	3	3
Livelihood	1			
Protection	1	4	5	3
Registration	1			
Shelter/NFI	1	4	2	2
Site Management			1	
WASH	1	7	3	2

New displacements



Sources: UNHCR, Governments

UNHCR Comprehensive Overview of Response to Emergencies | rbesa-dima@unhcr.org

Published 12 December 2025

For more information, please contact UNHCR Regional Bureau for Eastern and Southern Africa - External Engagement rbesa-ee@unhcr.org