



KEY FIGURES

35,845

Number of South Sudanese refugees who have arrived in Sudan in 2017.

2017 new refugee arrivals by state

White Nile	9,702	(27%)
South Kordofan	8,665	(24%)
East Darfur	7,275	(20%)
West Kordofan	7,170	(20%)
South Darfur	3,033	(9%)

332,885

Number of South Sudanese refugees who arrived in Sudan since December 2013.

FUNDING

US\$ 166.65 million

Inter-agency funding requirements for activities under the RRRP 2017

US\$ 3.16 million

Received by 11 appealing agencies, as of 10 February 2017.

2% funded

Funding gap:

US\$ 163.5 million

PRIORITIES

Coordination of collaborative, inter-agency assistance to new arrivals in South Kordofan.

Completion of biometric registration at the Kario site in East Darfur.

State-level contingency planning for a increased influx of refugees into Sudan in 2017.

SUDAN

INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL UPDATE: SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEE RESPONSE

1-28 February 2017

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

Nearly 25,000 South Sudanese refugees arrived in Sudan in February, for a total of over 35,000 refugees arriving so far in 2017. It is now estimated that over 332,000 refugees have fled to Sudan since December 2013. UNHCR was expecting up to 60,000 new arrivals in Sudan in 2017; however, the rate of new arrivals has surpassed initial expectations.

In **White Nile**, the expansion of the Al Waral II, Al Redis II and Um Sangour sites is underway in anticipation of an increasing influx over the coming months. On 3 February, clashes close to Sudan forced the evacuation of the Al Kuek North border point. Approximately 900 people were transported to safety at the Um Sangour site. A new entry point has been established at Um Jelala, about 10 km from the border, where temporary registration of new arrivals was resumed by the Sudan Red Crescent Society (SRCS). SRCS is providing new arrivals with hot meals, water, medical assistance and nutrition screening. The refugees are then transferred to a refugee site, where they are biometrically registered by UNHCR and non-food items (NFIs) and shelter arrangements are made.

An inter-agency rapid assessment mission was conducted 21-27 February to assess the needs of refugees newly arrived to the El Amira reception centre and several settlements near El Leri, a remote area with limited access of humanitarian partners in **South Kordofan**. The mission met with local authorities, line ministries, host communities and refugee community leaders in Dar-Bati, Um Kawaro, and Elgoghba, and learned that the new arrivals are mostly from Upper Nile state in South Sudan, having entered Sudan on foot. Refugees are in urgent need of food, health and WASH services and NFIs. The majority of new arrivals were reported to be women, children and elderly persons with Shilluk ethnicity, with some Dinka who usually move onwards to other areas in Sudan, including Khartoum and White Nile. The mission identified 719 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) among the new arrivals. Over 1,000 persons with special needs (PWSNs) have been identified, and vulnerability assessments are planned.


While the relationship between the refugees and host communities in the El Leri area are good, there does exist potential for friction over scarce local water resources in Dar-Bati. UNHCR began the distribution of 1,000 NFI kits to new arrivals. WFP dispatched emergency rations to cover the needs of both new arrivals and the pre-existing caseload. UNICEF is providing temporary water trucking to El Amira reception centre and El Leri for the next 45 days, while partners explore a more sustainable solution to local water shortages for refugees, which will also serve host community members who have shared available water in the area to date.

An inter-agency mission to Al Lait, **North Darfur** was conducted 12-16 February to determine the profile of an estimated 19,531 refugees who have resided across ten different locations since May 2016. Through field visits to hosting villages and discussions with community leaders, agencies learned that the refugees are from Northern Bahr Gazal, South Sudan and transited to North Darfur through West Kordofan. The host communities are sharing resources with the refugees; however, facilities are overstretched and require urgent multi-sector interventions including shelter and NFIs, food, health, nutrition, WASH, protection and livelihoods. The initial assessment indicates that the refugees, host community and local authorities would prefer community-based assistance with support to host communities. An inter-agency response plan is being developed. In the meantime, WFP will revisit Al Lait in mid-March to begin general food distribution, and UNHCR will conduct Level 1 (household) registration and distribute emergency shelters (ES) and NFIs.



Protection

- Biometric registration is ongoing at the Kario site in **East Darfur**, with a total of 9,071 refugees registered as of 28 February, including 2,975 who arrived in February. The total population in Kario is now estimated to be approximately 16,000. A larger biometric registration team is now in place and preparations are underway to expand registration activities to other sites.
- To date, biometric registration has led to the identification and registration of 45 UASC and 55 children-at-risk with other protection concerns in Kario. UNHCR, UNICEF and local partner RIMCO have made an agreement with community leaders to provide updated lists of UASC not yet registered by the end of March. UNHCR will register and then conduct best interest assessments (BIAs) of all listed UASC.
- In response to the pace of recent new arrivals in **East Darfur**, COR, WFP, SRCS and UNHCR finalized a standard operating procedure (SOP) to guide the timely delivery of reception services at the Kario site and for Al Nimir site once opened. The new SOP ensures that new arrivals to the sites are immediately registered at Level 1 and provided with hot meals for 3 days, with biometric registration to follow, and nutrition and medical screenings, as well as food ration and NFI distribution within 5 days of arrival. The SOP will be operational as of 5 March 2017.
- In **South Darfur**, 433 refugee households (approximately 2,300 individuals) were registered (Level I) in Buram, El Radom, Al Mahara, and Al Fifi near the South Sudanese border. The majority of refugees are women and children who reportedly arrived in Sudan between July and November 2016. While they have been accommodated by host communities, reported needs include immediate food assistance, NFI distribution, and basic service provision for both refugees and host communities. SRCS also completed construction of a reception centre at a key transit point for the refugees in Buram. The reception centre will be operational in mid-March and will provide refugees with initial screening and transportation. SRCS will conduct handover to COR who will take over the management of the reception centre.
- Child protection initiatives are ongoing in **South and West Kordofan**, with a focus on the identification of UASC among new arrivals. In West Kordofan, local partner AORD provided psychosocial support and recreational activities to over 150 UASC via the local Child Friendly Space. In South Kordofan, the State Council for Child Welfare (SCCW) identified 137 UASC, and alternative care arrangements are being made in consultation with refugee community leaders. Community reports indicate that there are additional UASC who have newly arrived, and UNHCR and SCCW are working to identify and support these children as soon as possible.
- In **White Nile**, UNHCR supported the state Civil Registry to finalize the registration and issuance of birth certificates for some 2,600 South Sudanese refugee children born since 1 January 2014 in the refugee sites at Dabat Bosin, Al Alagaya, Jouri and Kashafa. The state's Ministry of Social Affairs also identified and verified an additional 2,200 UASC living across the eight existing refugee sites. UNHCR and partners are now arranging for child protection assistance, including NFIs such as blankets, while an assessment of the children's best interests is undertaken. UNHCR continues to work with state partners to address child protection gaps, including staffing and training.



Water and Sanitation

- In Kharasana, **West Kordofan**, IOM conducted hygiene promotion and vector control campaigns for 2,000 refugee and host community households via home visits over 4 days in February, as well as community clean-up campaigns. The campaigns form part of the response's broader focus on mitigating community health issues associated with poor sanitation service access and hygiene practices.
- Refugees, host communities and local authorities in El Leri, **South Kordofan** raised access to adequate water supply as the most critical priority during the inter-agency rapid assessment mission to the area on 23 February. Overcrowding at all water sources near El Leri was observed, with women, teenage girls and young children from both communities forced to wait in long lines over many hours to wait for water. Response partners have identified a series of recommendations to address the WASH gaps in El Leri and are in the process of developing a response plan.
- The WASH situation in White Nile improved in February. UNICEF's completion of the Alwaral water treatment plant resulted in an increase in water supply for the refugees living there, from 7 litres per person per day to 15.3 litres, which is in line with humanitarian standards. Additionally, SIDO and Plan Sudan implemented hygiene promotion activities to mitigate waterborne disease risk that reached over 11,500 refugees living at Alagaya, Dabat Bosin and Um Sangour sites, including awareness-raising on latrine use and hand washing, and jerry can cleaning campaigns across the sites.

Education

- A joint UNHCR-UNICEF education mission took place from 18-22 February to El Fula, Abullikerry, El Meiram and Kharasana in **West Kordofan** to assess educational interventions for refugee children. Key findings indicated that most classrooms across the localities are in need of rehabilitation, and noted a lack of seating and WASH facilities. The mission also identified very low enrollment of South Sudanese refugee children, despite the schools' close proximity to refugee settlements. Schools reported rapid dropout of refugee students due to a lack of school feeding programmes, high enrollment costs and lack of income to meet other basic needs, as well as the use of Arabic-only curriculum. UNICEF and UNHCR will meet with the state Ministry of Education (MoE) and inter-agency partners to address the issues raised by the mission.
- UNHCR and ADRA covered the final examination fees for 540 South Sudanese refugee students from across the refugee sites in **White Nile** who will sit the exam for their basic certificate (grade 8) in March. The state MoE has designated 4 exam centres for refugee students. ADRA will provide transportation to exam centres and support exam monitoring, while UNICEF will provide breakfast meals, drinking water and soap to students in the four examination centres. Plan International Sudan has provided dignity kits for 215 girls who will sit the exam. The MoE has also requested support from response partners to build 2 secondary schools to ensure that refugee students who have passed the exam are able to continue their studies.

Health

- PanCare continues to provide medical services to refugees living at the remote Dar-Bati settlement in El Leri, **South Kordofan**. In February, 446 refugees received medical treatment, with diarrhea and malaria the most prevalent among patients. There is a need for nutritional and medical screening for new arrivals, in particular children in the El Amira reception centre. UNHCR and COR have agreed to follow up with the sector to address this gap.
- In **White Nile**, UNHCR, with SRCS and the state Ministry of Health, distributed 32,000 mosquito nets to refugees living across all eight refugee sites, for 75% net coverage. The remaining 25% of the population will receive nets in March upon delivery of the next shipment. The net distribution is a part of malaria prevention activities at the sites in preparation for the upcoming rainy season, when incidence of malaria typically increases.
- The need for access to health services is critical among refugees living in **Khartoum's** open areas after local health partner Al Manar's mobile health clinic services were suspended by CVHW at the end of January. Before the suspension of services, UNHCR was referring an average of 300 refugees per week. UNHCR is in consultations with local authorities to try to get clinic services back up and running.

Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs)

- Land availability is a primary concern to accommodate the increase of new arrivals in 2017 to refugee sites in **White Nile**, while ensuring refugee response standards are sustained. UNHCR is constructing 2 communal shelters at the Alwaral site to accommodate a growing number of new arrivals at the camp while they wait to receive emergency shelters and land plots.
- UNHCR dispatched NFI kits to address critical NFI gaps for new arrivals in the El Leri, **South Kordofan** area. By February 28, NFI kits had been distributed by SRCS to over 1,000 newly arrived households. In **West Kordofan**, UNHCR and SRCS completed preparations for the distribution of NFI kits to over 2,500 households in Kharasana and El Meiram, with the distribution scheduled for early March.
- Response partners in **South and West Kordofan** identified a need to establish SOPs to inform NFI distribution for increasing numbers of new arrivals in remote areas of both states. UNHCR has also started to coordinate with WFP to pair NFI distributions with general food distribution where possible, and UNHCR will meet with SRCS and COR in both states during the first week of March to determine how to move forward on SOPs to improve the coordination of NFI response.



Food Security and Nutrition

- In addition to the general food distribution in February to over 91,000 refugees at **White Nile** refugee sites, WFP prepositioned buffer food stocks to meet the needs of an anticipated 5,000 new arrivals to Um Sangour and Alwaral sites in the coming months. UNHCR and WFP agreed to distribute a 15-day ration for all refugees immediately upon arrival to Um Sangour and Khor Alwaral Camps.
- WFP completed general food distribution to refugees living in Abu Jubaiha, Abbasiya and in Rashad localities in **South Kordofan**. Additionally, they initiated a food distribution to address the needs of both the existing and new caseload of refugees arriving in El Leri. WFP has confirmed plans to resume general food distribution for refugees in **West Kordofan** in March, which will now also cover the needs of host communities. UNHCR and WFP in Kadugli have agreed to review the need for SOPs on food distribution in order to improve coordination and address observed tensions between response partners and host communities over access to food rations.
- Outreach on malnutrition prevention and treatment among new arrivals across the response is ongoing. In **South Kordofan**, ASSIST reached over 45 pregnant and lactating women through breastfeeding awareness and best practice sessions conducted through a local outpatient therapeutic programme (OTP) centre in Abu Jabaiha, and through home visits. ASSIST also identified 6 cases of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and referred them for treatment, with 4 cases reported as cured. In **South Darfur**, Norwegian Church Aid reached 550 refugees through awareness-raising sessions on infant and young child feeding (IYCF), including breastfeeding, cooking and complementary feeding, via home visits and at their nutrition centre in Beileil.
- UNHCR and WFP have agreed to establish a rub hall (storage tent) at the Kario refugee site in **East Darfur**. The rub hall is a key component of response preparedness by enabling WFP to stockpile food supplies so that new arrivals have access to immediate food assistance, as per the new SOPs, and will reduce supply interruptions during the rainy season when roads become impassable.

Contact:

Lindsey Amèrica-Simms, Associate Reporting Officer, americas@unhcr.org

Links:

UNHCR Sudan Operation for the South Sudan Situation: <http://data.unhcr.org/SouthSudan/country.php?id=204>

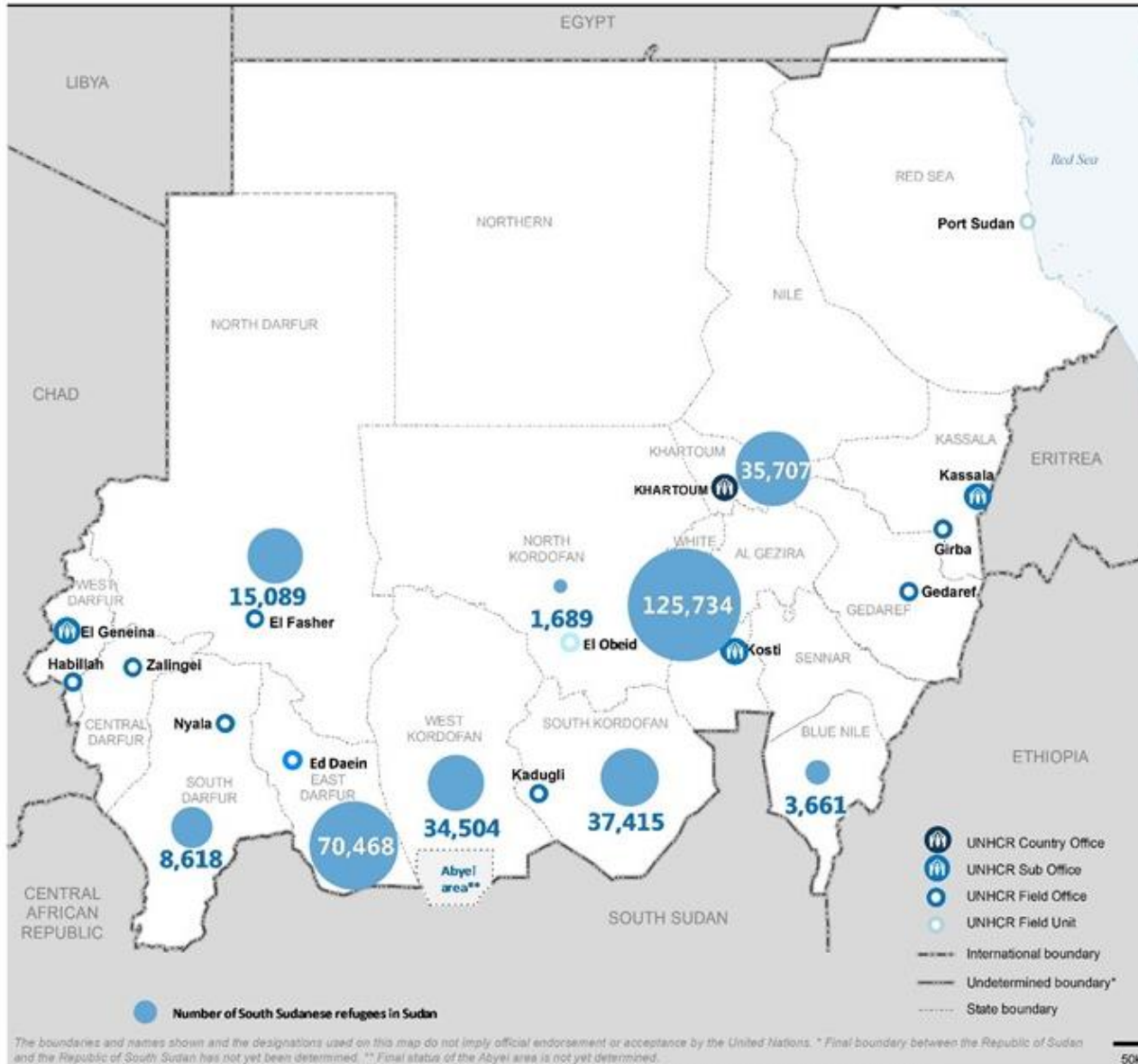
UNHCR in Sudan: <http://www.unhcr.org/afr/sudan>



SUDAN

Refugees from South Sudan

as of 28 Feb 2017



South Sudanese refugees in Sudan Post Dec 2013
332,885



In addition, Sudan also hosts an estimated 350,000 South Sudanese refugees following the separation of South Sudan from Sudan, with some of them at risk of statelessness

Reported arrivals of South Sudanese refugees in Sudan 1 Jan -28 Feb 2017



Total Arrivals 35,845

Population of South Sudanese refugees in Sudan Post Dec 2013

State	Population	Percentage
White Nile	125,734	38%
East Darfur	70,468	21%
Khartoum	35,707	11%
South Kordofan	37,415	11%
West Kordofan	34,504	10%
North Darfur	15,089	5%
South Darfur	8,618	3%
Blue Nile	3,661	1%
North Kordofan	1,689	1%
Total	332,885	100%

Note: The inter-agency mission population estimate for Al Lait, North Darfur is not included in this update, and will be updated once Level 1 registration is complete.

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. * Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. ** Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined.