

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

EMERGENCY UPDATE ON THE SOUTH SOUDAN REFUGEE SITUATION

27 March – 2 April 2017

KEY FIGURES

74,148

South Soudan Refugees registered in DRC (as of 31 March 2017)

18,985

Of these refugees living at Meri site (as of 31 March 2017)

1,743

Of these refugees living at Biringi site (as of 31 March 2017)

FUNDING

USD 31 mio.

requested for the operation



PRIORITIES

- Provide additional family shelters.
- Transfer refugees to sites and identify new sites.
- Support self-reliance and access to basic services at refugee sites.
- Maintain the humanitarian and civilian character of asylum.
- Integrate refugee children into DRC's national education system.
- Find solutions for unaccompanied children.

HIGHLIGHTS

- During the reporting period, 135 households of 407 people arrived in Meri site (Faradje Territory, Haut-Uélé province), according to pre-screening of the National Commission for Refugees (CNR).
- Among these new arrivals, some expressed the wish to go to Dungu to join family members.
- 36 common dorms in Meri site (hangars) were saturated (around 4,500 households were hosted there) and the risks linked to overcrowding (risk of epidemics, protection risks, etc.) were on the rise.
- Moreover, needs in terms of food, non-food items, water and sanitation were on the rise.
- Clothes were distributed to 887 refugees at Meri site (350 women, 346 men and 191 children).



Refugees playing and singing in Meri site ©UNHCR

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational context

- The security situation in Faradje and Dungu territories remains relatively calm during the week. Refugees continue to arrive in DRC from South Sudan, mainly from Yei (Central Equatoria – for the ones arriving in Meri site) as a result of the continuing clashes between the parties to the conflict.

Protection

Achievements and Impact

- ADSSE conducted social screening of new arrivals at Meri site to identify people with specific needs (in parallel to the biometric registration). 57 persons with specific needs were identified during the period under review. They were assisted with hot meals and housing.
- There was a total of 55 unaccompanied and separated children registered at Meri site, of which 22 living in foster families. One unaccompanied child from Aru was reunited with his family at Meri site. Social partner ADSSE also ensured the follow-up of 15 other unaccompanied children. These cases were documented by UNHCR community service.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- People with specific needs in Doruma need essential household items such as soap, clothes, shoes, hygienic kits for women and girls, dishes, sleeping mats etc.
- No *Best Interest Assessments* (BIAs) or *Best Interest Determination* (BIDs) completed for unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) and other children at risk living in Meri and Biringi sites so far. Training of UNHCR and partner staff on the use of the tools and the revitalization of BID panels are required to ensure systematic follow-up on all children at risk.

Education

Achievements and Impact

- Social partner ADSSE identified 128 new school-age children among whom 51 girls at Meri site.
- ADSSE paid the school fee for 104 refugee children living in the localities of Doruma, Nambili, Bitima and Dungu.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is an increasing need of classrooms and latrines in schools in Meri site and localities around Doruma (Dungu territory) due to the increasing number of refugee students.

Health

Achievements and Impact

- During the reporting period, 30 new arrivals underwent medical screening at the transit center of Aru and 16 sick people received appropriate medical care from ADES at Biringi site.
- 15 children aged between 0 and 59 months received Vitamin A and anti-worms treatment at the transit center of Aru during the reporting period.
- The medical partner ADES ensured the medical follow-up of 11 patients hospitalized at Biringi and Aru General Hospitals and at the Anglican health center of Aru.
- ADES has distributed 264 condoms during the reporting period with the aim to prevent sexually transmitted infections and undesired pregnancies.

- During the reporting period, the medical partner ADES ensured the medical follow-up, orientation and referral of 9 patients in Faradje territory. 515 other patients benefited from medical care at the Health Center of Nyalanya.
- ADES ensured the medical follow-up of 92 cases of chronic diseases at Meri site.
- During the reporting period, 7 deliveries were recorded (two by cesarean) and referred to civil registry for birth certificates. Since the beginning of 2017, 105 deliveries were carried out in Aba and all the newborn were recorded in civil registry.



Food Security and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

- During the reporting period, 2,102 hot meals were distributed to 152 new arrivals, candidates to relocation, sick and vulnerable people at Biringi site and at the transit center of Aru.
- 13 people underwent nutritional screening at the transit center of Aru during before relocation at Biringi site. Six cases of moderate malnutrition were detected among whom two children.
- During the reporting period, 114 children underwent nutritional screening upon arrival in Meri site and 14 cases of malnutrition were detected. They were enrolled in the nutritional program. Other 34 children completed successfully the nutritional program. Since the beginning of 2017, 214 children successfully completed the program.
- 4,182 packs of WFP high-energy biscuits were distributed to 907 new arrivals at Meri site.
- 3,612 hot meals were distributed to 1,174 new arrivals at Meri site.
- During the reporting period, 30 households who benefitted from agricultural plots sowed 3 hectares of land around Doruma and Nambili.



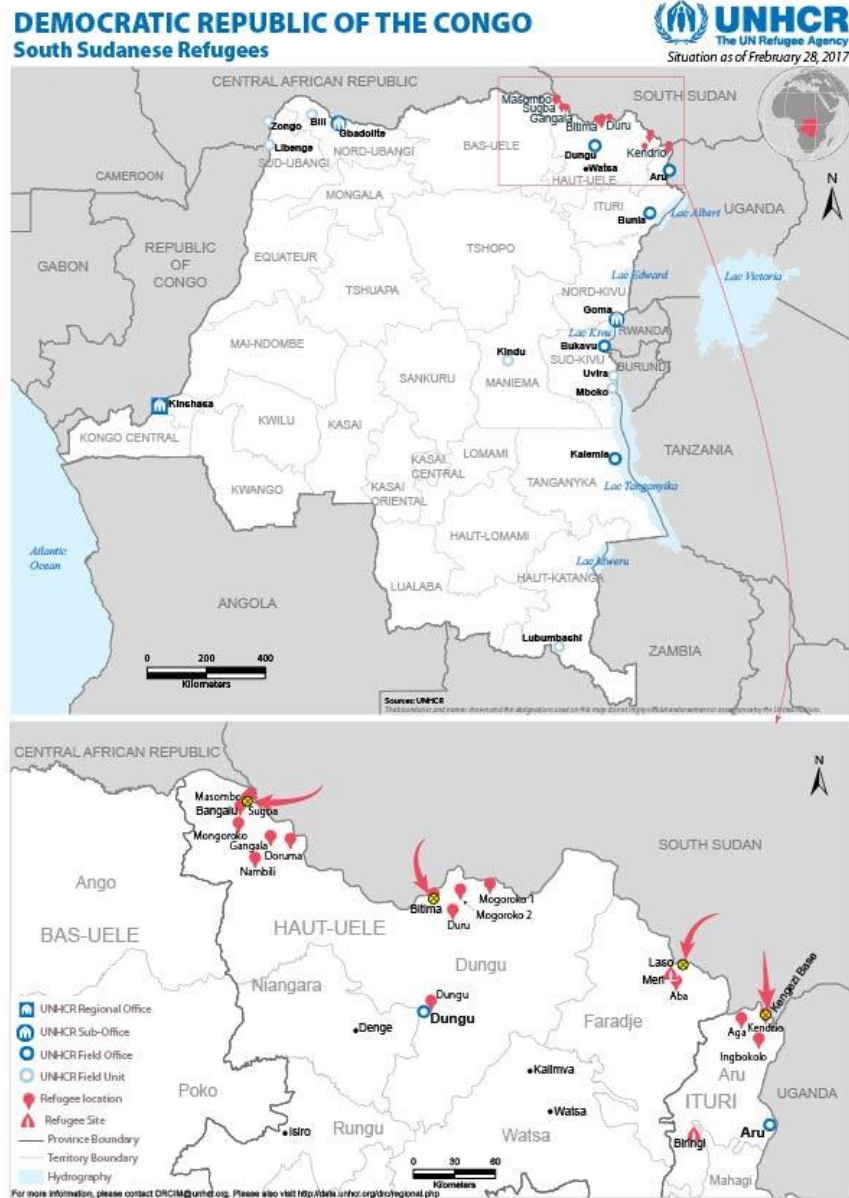
Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact

- During the reporting period, some 18 liters of water per person and per day were distributed to refugees and the host community in Aru territory.
- 126 latrines and community showers were functional at the site.
- During the reporting period, some 17 liters of water per person and per day were distributed to 18,237 refugees living in Meri site. 15 water pumps built by ADES and 8 built by Malteser were functional.
- 20 new latrines have been built in Meri site giving a total of 802 latrines operational during the reporting period.

Working in partnership

- UNHCR coordinates its assistance with a variety of humanitarian actors, working together to ensure refugees benefit from dignified and efficient protection mechanisms.
- For this operation, UNHCR partners are: AIRD, CNR, ADES, ADSSE and INTERSOS. Other partners include FAO, WFP MALTESER, TROCAIRE and WFP (with its partner TSF).



Donors for the South Sudanese refugee response in DRC in 2017

United States of America (3.1 M) | Belgium (0.3 M)

Donors for UNHCR's programmes in DRC operations in 2017

United States of America (20.2 M) | Japan (2.5 M) | Sweden (1.1 M) | UN Fund for Intl Partnerships (0.2 M) | Vodafone Foundation (0.05 M) | Private Donors Spain (0.06 M)

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Links:

Data portal: <http://data.unhcr.org/SouthSudan/country.php?id=46>