

South Sudanese Refugee Situation

Democratic Republic of the Congo

07 – 13 August 2017

The registration of **700 new South Sudanese refugees** during the reporting week represented a peak compared to the previous weeks.

Over a third of the newly registered refugees in Meri have specific needs and therefore require additional assistance, such as medical care, food assistance or support in finding shelter.

6,500 refugees and members of the host communities were trained in sowing and soil cultivation technique by UNHCR and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

KEY INDICATORS

82,322

South Sudanese refugees **registered or pre-registered** as of 31st July 2017

53%

of the refugees are women and girls

64%

Children below the age of 18 years

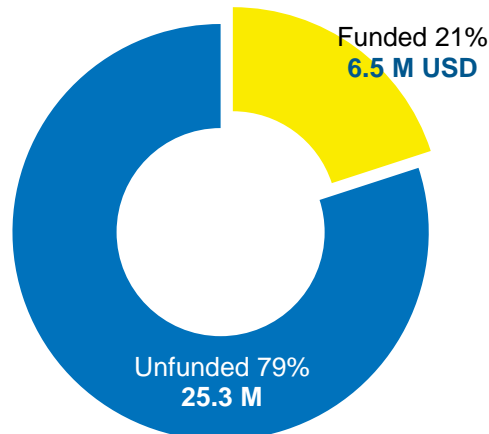
27,366

South Sudanese refugees living in the refugee sites of Meri and Biringi as of 31st July 2017

FUNDING (AS OF 30 JULY 2017)

USD 31.8 M

requested for the DRC - South Sudanese refugee situation



Update on Achievements

Operational Context

- Tensions in South Sudan in the border areas to the DRC's Haut-Uélé and Ituri provinces continued to displace the population across the border.
- The situation in the Faradje territory (Haut-Uélé) and Aru territory (Ituri) remained relatively calm. UNHCR's access to the asylum seekers and refugees in the border areas of the Dungu territory (Haut-Uélé) remained very limited due to the activities of armed groups, including the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). Assistance to the refugees north of Doruma remained suspended for this reason.



Registration of the newborn babies at the Biringi site. © UNHCR / A. Cadonau August 2017

**PROTECTION****Achievements and Impact**

- **Registration** – 693 newly arrived refugees were biometrically registered: 90% at the Meri site (Haut-Uélé province), and 10% at the Biringi site (Ituri province). UNHCR biometrically registered 28 babies who were born at the Biringi site and provided them with the certificates that attest their refugee status. Registration of the newborn is done twice a month at the Meri and Biringi sites.
- **Security** – UNHCR's partner, the National Commission for Refugees (CNR), trained 20 refugees at the Biringi site in their responsibilities as members of the vigilance committee. This committee supports the national police in providing security at the site.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Specific needs – Over a third of the newly registered refugees in Meri have specific needs and therefore require additional assistance, such as medical care, food assistance or support in finding shelter. The need for shelter, construction kits, food and non-food items and medical care remained primordial, first and foremost for those refugees with specific needs. In total, 4,500 refugees with specific needs were registered in Meri and 500 in Biringi.

**EDUCATION****Achievements and Impact**

- **School year 2017-2018** – UNHCR's social partner continued the enrollment for the upcoming start of the new school year. 5,230 children in Meri and 640 in Biringi should be enrolled in primary school. In the previous semester, available funds permitted the support of 120 children of primary school age in Biringi (19%) and 930 in Meri (18%). To respond to the pressing need, UNHCR will construct 12 instead of six classrooms initially foreseen for 2017 and was exploring ways to support the enrollment of an increased number of children.
- **Language courses** – In Biringi, 170 children (58% girls) were attending the French classes in which they acquire the necessary language skills to integrate into the regular school. Since the beginning of the year, 810 refugee children in Biringi and 750 in Meri benefited from these French classes. However, they risk to be suspended at both sites due to the lack adequate facilities. The eight hangars, benches and blackboards were vandalized or stolen due to the lack of available building material for shelter, and require urgent rehabilitation.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Equipment** – The new primary school bloc in Meri, which is planned to open in September, still requires benches and desks for 300 students as well as blackboards for the three classrooms.



HEALTH

Achievements and Impact

- **Vaccination** – Community health workers in Meri reached 400 parents (50% women) in a door-to-door campaign on the importance of vaccinations. At the Meri and Biringi sites, children below the age of one are routinely vaccinated against polio, tuberculosis, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, meningitis, pneumonia, measles and yellow fever.
- **Medical screening** – Upon their arrival at the Meri and Biringi sites, 115 refugee children below the age of five were administered vitamin A and deworming tablets. The refugees continued to arrive in a relatively bad health status. In Biringi, 30% of the newly arrivals required medical care which UNHCR's partner provided them with.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Malaria** – Mosquito nets are urgently needed for 12,500 refugees in Meri and 1,600 in Biringi. This could significantly reduce the high prevalence of malaria (50% of all pathologies in Biringi and 30% in Meri).



FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Achievements and Impact

- **Food distribution** – UNHCR's partner Caritas Mahagi-Nioka distributed food items in Biringi. Each refugee received 5 kg of corn flour, 5 kg of beans, 1 liter of vegetable oil and 160 g of salt.
- **Malnutrition** – 42% of the pregnant women among the newly arrived refugees in Meri were malnourished and subsequently received food supplements. Overall, 540 cases of malnutrition were registered in Meri (2.1% of the refugee population), and 96 in Biringi (3.2% of the refugee population).

**WATER AND SANITATION****Achievements and Impact**

- **Latrines** – UNHCR increased the number of latrines to be built in Meri and Biringi in 2017 from 130 to 800. They will be built jointly by UNHCR's partner and the beneficiaries following a cash-based intervention approach. The lack of almost 7,500 family latrines compels to practice open defecation, which implies an increased health risk through the spread of diseases and a serious protection issue, particularly to girls and women.
- **Water** – Three of the nine sources in Biringi were rehabilitated, which increased the available daily water supply to 17 litres per person.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Water** – Water supply remained particularly frail at the Meri site, where 12.5 litres were available per person/day. An additional 36 water points were needed.

**SHELTER AND NFIS****Achievements and Impact**

- **Plots of land** – Plots will be cleared in Biringi in order for 100 households to build their own shelters. For 2017, UNHCR increased the number of shelters to be built in Meri and Biringi from 500 to 700. Almost 200 families in Biringi and over 5,000 in Meri urgently require shelters. They live in overcrowded transit hangars for months and are exposed to harsh weather conditions during the rainy season due to the lack of adequate shelter and available building material in the vicinity of the sites.

**COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE****Achievements and Impact**

- **Agriculture** – Since the beginning of the year, 1,250 households in Meri received fields to cultivate, 1,420 received seeds and 320 agricultural tools. In Biringi, 200 households were attributed fields and 160 households received tools and seeds. UNHCR's partners trained the refugees in crop cultivation and the preparation and maintenance of fields, stocks and seeds.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Agriculture** –A small number of the newly arrived refugees in Biringi accepted the attribution of a field because they lack the necessary tools for cultivation. UNHCR will provide 200 additional households with agricultural tools and provide 6,500 kg seeds.



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

Achievements and Impact

- **Peaceful coexistence** – Following several acts of vandalism, such as the destruction of communal hangars, and an increase in the number of physical aggression incidents at the Biringi site, two awareness raising sessions on fostering peaceful coexistence reached almost half of the site's population.

Working in partnership

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

External / Donors Relations

Donors for SSD refugee response in DRC in 2017

United States of America (6.2 M) | Belgium (0.3 M)

Other donors for UNHCR operations in DRC in 2017

United States of America (22.2 M) | Japan (2.5 M) | Sweden (1.1 M) | DRC Humanitarian Fund (0.8 M) | Canada (0.7 M) | France (0.5 M) | Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints (0.2 M) | U.N. Foundation (0.2 M) | Private Donors Spain (0.07 M) | Vodafone Foundation (0.05 M)

CONTACTS

Chiara Cavalcanti, Associate Reporting Officer, DR Congo - RR Kinshasa,
cavalcan@unhcr.org, Tel: +243 996 041 000, Cell +243 810 403 901

Anita Cadonau, Associate External Relations and Reporting Officer, DR Congo – SO
Aru, cadonau@unhcr.org, Cell +243 817 788 422

LINKS

[Regional portal for SSD situation](#) - [DRC page for SSD situation](#) – [DRC Facebook page](#)