

South Sudanese Refugee Situation

Democratic Republic of the Congo

04 – 10 September 2017

The **number of South Sudanese refugees** biometrically registered this week (491) **doubled** compared to the previous reporting week (233).

UNHCR increased its support for school fees, uniforms and school supplies **by over 60%** and will take up the expenses for 4,000 primary school-aged children for the current school year.

Awareness sessions on hygiene practices to avoid waterborne diseases reached 2,000 refugees at the Meri site. This is particularly important given the rising number of cholera cases reported in many provinces of the DRC.

KEY INDICATORS

84,352

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

53%

Women and girls

64%

Children below the age of 18 years

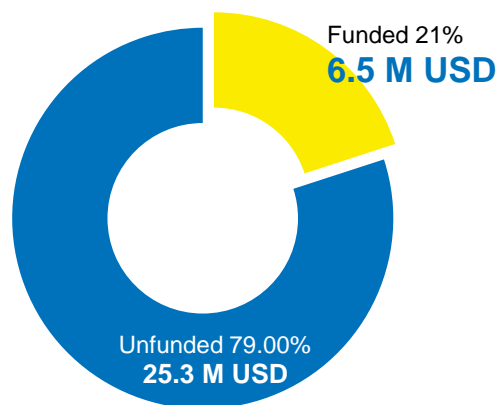
29,396

Refugees living in the refugee sites of Meri and Biringi as of 31st August 2017.

FUNDING (AS OF 05 SEPTEMBER 2017)

USD 31.8 M

requested for the DRC - South Sudanese refugee situation



Update on Achievements

Operational Context

- Continuous clashes in South Sudan caused a steady flow of refugees into the Faradje territory (Haut-Uélé province) and Aru territory (Ituri province).
- The security situation in the Faradje and Aru territories remained relatively calm aside from an armed robbery in Ingbokolo (north of Aru territory). UNHCR activities continued as planned.
- The security situation in Dungu territory (Haut-Uélé province) remained precarious due to the activities of armed groups that restrict UNHCR's access to asylum seekers in the border areas.



Three new classrooms were completed and fully equipped at the Biringi site © AIRD August 2017

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

- **Registration** – 440 newly arrived South Sudanese refugees were biometrically registered at the Meri site (Haut-Uélé province) and 51 at the Biringi site (Ituri province). As of 10th September 2017, 26,621 South Sudanese refugees were registered in Meri and 3,106 in Biringi (figures to be integrated in next statistics report).
- **Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)** – Five victims of SGBV were identified in Meri. UNHCR's partners provided them with medical and psychosocial assistance and mediate for a case of psychological aggression. Overall, 84 SGBV cases were registered in Meri and 64 in Biringi since the beginning of the year, with no new cases identified in Biringi during the reporting week. Sensitization on SGBV prevention and response continued with 3,200 refugees and members of the host community sensitized in Meri.

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

- **School fees** – UNHCR increased its support for school fees, uniforms and school supplies by over 60% compared to the previous school year and will take up the expenses for 4,000 primary school-aged children for the current school year (2,158 in Meri, 1,520 in Dungu and 322 in Biringi). UNHCR's support includes 800 children from the local community.
- **Additional classrooms** – The construction of three additional classrooms at the Biringi site and three at Meri sites was completed and they were fully equipped with desks, benches and blackboards. The buildings will be handed over to the local authorities shortly and will benefit both refugees and host community.
- **Sensitization** – Although the school year 2017-2018 started on 4th September, UNHCR's social partner ADSSE continued to sensitize 190 parents in Biringi and 470 in Doruma and Duru to the enrollment of their children in school.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Enrollment rate** – The enrollment rate among refugee children of primary school age remained low. In Meri, only 3,401 of the 7,070 children of primary school age (48%) in were enrolled (registration continued). UNHCR's funds merely cover the expenses for 30% of the pupils at the Meri site; an increase in funds could significantly raise the enrollment rate.

- **Additional classrooms** – 15 additional primary schools are needed in Meri and two in Biringi to accommodate the continuously increasing number of school children. In response to that need, UNHCR plan to construct 12 classrooms at the two sites in 2017.

**HEALTH****Achievements and Impact**

- **Cholera** – In light of a worrying number of cholera cases reported in 20 of the 26 provinces of the DRC (according to the World Health Organization), UNHCR's health partner ADES constantly monitored epidemic-prone diseases to recognize early warnings of outbreaks. So far, no cases of cholera have been recorded neither at the Meri and Biringi sites, nor in Dungu. To prevent a possible outbreak, ADES continued to sensitize the refugees to treatment of drinking water, individual and collective hygiene, food hygiene and the use of latrines. All community latrines were equipped with hand washing stations. In addition, an epidemic prevention and response plan was in place at the public health zones and ADES prepositioned medicines against a number of epidemic diseases.
- **Capacity building** – ADES trained health care providers at the General Referral Hospital in Aba (Meri site) on integrated management of childhood illnesses. This is part of UNHCR's strategy of providing integrated services, which take into account the refugees' needs as well as those of the host community. Assistance to enhance the capacity of health services in the communities is provided which will in turn enable to extend these services to the refugees.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Malaria** – Malaria remained the most common disease with 20-40% of all identified diseases in Meri, Biringi and Dungu. Mosquito nets are urgently needed for 12,500 refugees in Meri and 1,600 in Biringi.

**FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION****Achievements and Impact**

- **Malnutrition** – The nutritional condition of 25 children in Meri improved from severely to moderately malnourished thanks to UNHCR and the World Food Programme's (WFP) feeding programme. Moreover, 70 children successfully completed the programme. 54 new cases (28 children and 26 pregnant or lactating women) of malnutrition were identified during the nutritional screening of the newly arrived refugees and through community relays in Meri. Overall, almost 600 malnourished

refugees were registered in Meri and 124 in Biringi; all of them receive food supplements. No new cases were identified in Biringi.

- **Food distribution** – 650 among the most vulnerable refugees in Meri were served 1,650 hot meals. In Biringi, 80 refugees received 500 hot meals.



WATER AND SANITATION

Achievements and Impact

- **Latrines** – In Meri, 20 latrines and showers were constructed using a cash-based intervention (CBI) approach. 78 of the 85 planned CBI latrines were finished.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Water** – Water provision in Meri decreased further to 11, 6 l/p/d, provided by 23 springs, due to the increase in the refugee population while the number of springs remained unchanged. At least 36 additional water points are required. This is even more pressing in view of the high number of cholera cases in three quarters of the provinces in the DRC.
- **Latrines** – On average, 26 refugees share one toilet in Meri. An additional 7,500 latrines are urgently required. In Biringi, at least 1,000 additional latrines are needed.



SHELTER AND NFIS

Achievements and Impact

- **Shelter** – 515 of the 700 shelters (74%) that UNHCR will construct for the most vulnerable refugees in Meri and Biringi in 2017 were already finished and inhabited.
- **Shelter verification** – UNHCR completed a verification mission of all shelters in Biringi, which aimed at overhauling the condition of the shelters, numbering them (including GPS data) and collecting protection-related information about their inhabitants. The site counted 730 shelters of which 480 were constructed by UNHCR's partner AIRD with UNHCR funds (66%) and 250 were constructed by the refugees themselves (44%).

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Shelter and construction material** – 5,200 families in Meri and 360 in Biringi urgently required shelter. They live in overcrowded transit hangars for months where they are exposed to the weather and an increased risk of infectious diseases. Construction material is scarce, particularly in the vicinity of the Meri site where deforestation is increasing.

**ACCESS TO ENERGY****Achievements and Impact**

- **Improved stoves** – UNHCR's partner Caritas Mahagi-Nioka will train 2,000 refugees at the Biringi site in the construction of improved stoves and provide them with bricks and clay to build them. The utilization of improved stoves will remove strain from the surrounding forests and increase the availability of branches for the construction of shelters, latrines and showers.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Deforestation** – There is a pressing need to reforest the Meri site and its surroundings due to the increasing number of refugees – in addition to the local community – who collect firewood and construction material. Wood is scarce around the site and refugees have to go as far as 25 km to collect sticks and branches to construct their shelters and collect firewood.

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

- **Income generating activities (IGA)** – UNHCR and the International Labor Organization (ILO) were conducting values chains assessments for income generating activities in Meri. Livestock breeding, small trade, motorcycle taxi, sewing, fish farming, masonry, hairdressing and beekeeping were identified for possible self-reliance activities promotion, in addition to agriculture, which UNHCR and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) already promote among the refugees. The same evaluation was conducted in Biringi the week before and will be conducted in Dungu the following week.

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) | Belgium (1.1 M) | European Union (1.1 M) | Sweden (1.1 M) | UNIQLO Co. Ltd (0.9 M) | DRC Humanitarian Fund (0.8 M) | Canada (0.7 M) | Private Donors Germany (0.5 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) | Private Donors Republic of Korea (0.05 M) | Vodafone Foundation (0.05 M)

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LINKS

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