

KEY FIGURES

Daily arrival figures from July 2016 are based on manual emergency registration or head-counts/wrist-banding. Confirmed figures will be available as the new arrivals undergo biometric registration. Figures prior to July are from the Government's Refugee Information Management System (RIMS).

12,407

Number of new arrivals between 15th and 28th March 2017

886

Daily average of new arrivals between 15th and 28th March 2017

818,111

Total number of South Sudanese refugees in Uganda

PRIORITIES

- Ensure basic services for new arrivals as well support to persons with specific needs
- Accelerate biometric registration
- Identify new sites for refugee settlement
- Community outreach and protection monitoring in the settlements
- Expedite rehabilitation and construction of school structures to ensure access to education
- Ensure a sustainable and predictable supply of water
- Engage refugees/refugee leaders and host community members in coexistence and peace-building activities
- Promote and engage partners in livelihood interventions. Strengthen engagement of all partners, local authorities and members of the host community regarding interventions in Bidibidi.

UGANDA

EMERGENCY UPDATE ON THE SOUTH SUDAN REFUGEE SITUATION

INTER-AGENCY UPDATE | 15TH – 28TH MARCH 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

- The rate of new arrivals in to Uganda has decreased but remains high, with a total of 12,407 South Sudanese refugees received in Uganda between the 15th and 28th of March, compared to 41,378 in the previous two weeks. A daily average of 886 refugees crossed the border from South Sudan into Uganda.
- In light of this mass influx, the planning figure for the number of South Sudanese refugees expected to arrive in Uganda this year has been revised upwards from 300,000 to 400,000.
- Refugees arriving in Uganda report that they were forced to flee their homes in fear of the violence that has characterised the conflict in South Sudan, including indiscriminate and ethnically motivated killings, disappearances, rape, looting of property, arbitrary detention and torture. Those who have fled South Sudan also tell of the high cost of living, escalating inflation, food shortages and lack of access to basic services such as healthcare and education.
- Roads near the border with Lamwo district are reportedly obstructed by armed groups, leading refugees to use uncharted routes and informal border crossings in order to reach safety in Uganda.
- New arrivals continue to be relocated to Imvepi settlement in Arua district, which is now home to 46,286 South Sudanese refugees.
- Site planning and assessment is underway for a new refugee settlement site in Lamwo district, which has the capacity to accommodate 30,000 new refugees.
- Pending full scale readiness of a new settlement in Lamwo district, Palorinya Reception Centre continues to receive new arrivals from Elegu, Afogi and Lefori border points – particularly vulnerable refugees and those seeking reunification with their family members in Palorinya settlement. The settlement, which opened in December, has a refugee population of 146,752.



Children on a break from classes in Bidibidi settlement Zone 4 ©UNHCR

UPDATE ON SITUATION

- Refugees interviewed at Elegu Collection Point reported an eruption of fighting between armed forces in Lutaya in Yei County. Further violence, including attacks on civilians, killings, looting and destruction of property were reported in Palimo and Panyikwara in Magwi County. Refugees coming from Eastern Equatoria also reported violent incidents including killing of civilians and looting of properties in Torit, Wau and Rumbek areas, and refugees from Ganzi allege that armed forces in the area have been forcing people out of their homes.
- Some refugees from Eastern, Central and Western Equatoria also reported leaving the country due to hunger, as the prolonged conflict has meant they were unable to cultivate their land. Many of those who did manage to cultivate failed to get a good yield due to the drought.

Protection

- Registration:** In Bidibidi, biometric registration resumed on 21st March in Zone 3, and will continue in Zones 4 and 5. A total of 5,327 individuals were registered and issued with ration cards and documentation. In Palorinya, Level II registration activities are ongoing, and a total of 77,389 refugees have been biometrically registered to date.
- Persons with Specific Needs (PSN):** In Bidibidi, both refugees and host community members with specific needs will be supported with unconditional cash grants. 867 particularly vulnerable members of the Ugandan host community have been identified to receive cash transfers, and awareness raising on cash-based intervention is ongoing in the community.
- Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) Response:** New SGBV cases reported during the week include 26 in Bidibidi, four in Adjumani and 28 in Palorinya. All survivors were supported with a multi-sectoral response, including medical, psychosocial and legal services according to their needs.
- Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) Prevention:** In Bidibidi, 110 adolescent girls attended awareness sessions focused on the dangers of early marriage, and 1,349 (541 female, 377 male) refugees were reached through door-to-door outreach campaigns on economic violence, the benefits of girl child education, the dangers of alcoholism in families and how the misuse of power can increase SGBV in the community. In Olijji settlement, Adjumani, 29 (58 male, 37 female) community activists were supported with skills training to prevent SGBV in their communities. In Palorinya, 9,103 (3,701 male and 5,402 female) were reached by awareness campaigns on SGBV prevention and response.
- Child Protection:** In Bidibidi, 162 children at risk were identified and referred to the appropriate services. In Adjumani, meetings were conducted with religious groups in the settlements of Pagirinya and Agojjo to raise awareness of the risks of orphanages and placing children in unregistered institutional care. In Adjumani, 182 children at risk were identified and supported according to their needs.

Education

- Primary:** In Bidibidi, enrollment at primary school is 56,423 (29,160 male, 27,263 female). In Palorinya, 34,430 children (17,572 male, 16,858 female) have been registered for primary education, of which 21,165 have been enrolled. In Adjumani, 36,412 children are enrolled in primary school.
- Secondary:** In Bidibidi, enrolment in secondary education stands at 7,115 (4,721 male, 2,394 female). In Palorinya, 12,415 children (6,869 male and 5,546 female) children have registered for secondary education, of which 2,424 have been enrolled in Itula Secondary School (90% refugees). In Adjumani, the enrolment rate in secondary school is extremely low (4.4%) due to lack of scholarship opportunities and parents' inability to pay school fees.
- Early Childhood Development (ECD):** In Bidibidi, the number of children enrolled in ECD centres is 10,041 (4,699 male, 5,342 female). In Palorinya, 13,383 children have been registered for Early Childhood Development. In Adjumani, the number of children enrolled is 12,115.



Health

- **Morbidity:** The leading causes of illness were respiratory tract infections, which accounted for 27% of outpatient consultations in Bidibidi and 26% in Adjumani, malaria at 17% in Bidibidi and 19% in Adjumani, and Acute Watery Diarrhea at 10% in Bidibidi, 6% in Adjumani.
- **Immunisation:** In Bidibidi, 340 children were immunised against measles, 346 against tetanus, 447 children were given Vitamin A supplements and 686 were dewormed.



Food Security and Nutrition

- In Adjumani, 112 children were discharged from the feeding program, having regained their health. 814 acutely malnourished and 1,270 moderately malnourished children are still enrolled in the program.
- In Bidibidi, a total of 661 children aged 6-59 months are in the feeding programs. 128 pregnant and lactating women have also been identified and enrolled in the nutrition program.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

- **Water:** Access to safe water stands at an average of 15.6 litres per person per day (l/p/d) across the zones of Bidibidi, 16 l/p/d in Palorinya and 18 l/p/d in Adjumani, against the emergency standard of 15 l/p/d. Borehole drilling and repairs are ongoing to increase the availability of safe water in all settlements.
- **Sanitation:** In Bidibidi, 50 pit latrines were constructed to prevent open defecation and improve sanitation. Household latrine coverage stands at 23% in Bidibidi, 73% in Adjumani. Latrine coverage increased in Adjumani as a result of distribution of latrine construction materials and follow up community mobilisation.
- **Hygiene:** The ratio of hygiene promoters to refugees stands at 1:513 in Bidibidi and 1:660 in Adjumani, compared to the UNHCR standard of 1:500. In Palorinya, hygiene awareness sessions were conducted across the settlement reaching 2,686 persons with topics including latrine use, jerrycan cleaning, water storage and handwashing.



Shelter, Infrastructure and Distribution

- **Shelter:** Construction of shelters for particularly vulnerable refugees is ongoing across all settlements, in order to ensure their access to basic services.
- **Distribution:** Refugees are provided with a package of essential household items upon relocation to the settlements, as well as shelter construction kits. Women and girls are also provided with monthly packages of sanitary materials, underwear and soap to promote menstrual hygiene.

OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Protection:** Biometric registration must be accelerated. In Palorinya, transport is urgently required to improve security, access to services for persons with disabilities and family tracing. In Bidibidi, expedite construction of latrines for PSN households. In Imvepi, expand services and awareness raising on services for PSNs, strengthen SGBV case management mechanisms and recruit local language translators.
- **Education:** Rehabilitation of eroded school structures and construction of additional schools, especially permanent school structures. Repair and replacement of temporary classrooms damaged by weather. Additional teachers and classroom assistants are required to improve pupil to teacher ratios. Establishment of youth centres in Bidibidi. Distribution of sanitary materials for girls.
- **Health:** Staffing shortfalls must be addressed to increase the number of skilled health workers. Construction of permanent health infrastructure in locations with tented health facilities. Reliable solar lighting at health facilities to

ensure provision of health services at night. Additional stocks of anti-malarial drugs, vaccines and other medical supplies. Scale up HIV testing and prevention.

- **Food Security and Nutrition:** Address challenges in the food pipeline to prevent further delays in food distribution. In Bidibidi, ongoing construction of nutrition units in health facilities. In Imvepi, temporary shelters at distribution sites to protect vulnerable refugees from weather conditions, upgrade roads, establish permanent food storage facilities and map distribution sites.
- **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene:** Improved latrine coverage at household level and supply of buckets and jerry cans in Bidibidi. Additional boreholes, water tanks and communal latrines in Palorinya. In Imvepi, explore high water gravity system, establish a fuel station at Imvepi base and continue to monitor water quality. Recruitment of additional hygiene promoters.
- **Shelter, Infrastructure and Distribution:** In Palorinya, replenishment of stocks of soap for handwashing, cleaning of water storage containers, and sanitary materials for women and girls of reproductive age are urgently required. In Imvepi, ensure PSN shelters are accessible for water, sanitation and hygiene facilities.

The South Sudan Emergency Response in Uganda is coordinated jointly by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

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Links:

[South Sudan Regional portal](#) - [UN Refugee Chief: World must act to end South Sudan suffering](#)