

SOUTH SUDAN

September 2019

POPULATIONS OF CONCERN

299,162

Number of **refugees in South Sudan**. 92% came from Sudan, 5% from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 2% from Ethiopia, and 1% from the Central African Republic.

1.46 million

Number of **internally displaced persons** in South Sudan, 12% of which are staying inside six UNMISS Protection of Civilians sites.

213,376

Number of **South Sudanese refugees who have returned** to South Sudan in a self-organized manner (November 2017 – 30 September 2019) of **2.3 million displaced**.

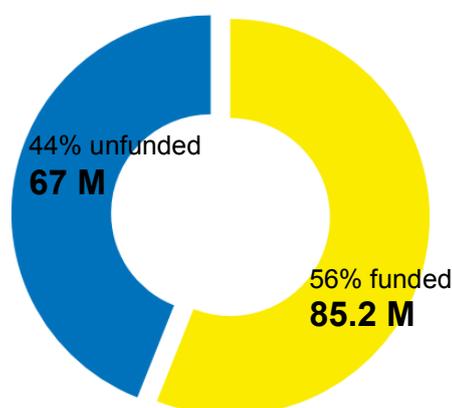


A Sudanese refugee child in Pamir refugee camp in Jamjang, South Sudan. © UNHCR/Elizabeth Stuart

FUNDING AS OF SEPTEMBER 2019

\$152.2 million

Requested for 2019



In this issue

- South Sudan's Commission for Refugee Affairs and UNHCR **secured the release of 20 registered asylum-seekers** after they were detained by immigration officials in Juba, Central Equatoria State. (Page 3)
- UNHCR **ramped up its response to severe seasonal flooding** in Maban County, which hosts over 150,000 refugees. (Page 3)
- More than 17,000 refugee children were **screened for malnutrition** as part of a quarterly exercise. Eight-hundred-and-fifty were enrolled to receive supplementary nutrition support. (Page 6)
- Twenty-seven refugee students were **selected to receive scholarships** through the DAFI programme (Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative). (Page 6)
- Thousands of people were internally displaced in Warrap and Central Equatoria by flooding and armed conflict, respectively. UNHCR and partners **provided emergency support**. (Page 9)

Operational Context



Internally displaced persons in Maban, Upper Nile. © UNHCR/Mary-Sanyu Osire

Armed conflict in South Sudan has declined since the parties to the civil war signed a peace agreement in September 2018; however, implementation of the deal is lagging and the political situation remains fragile. Meanwhile, poor rule of law and easy access to arms has resulted in an increase in inter- and intra-communal violence that continues to displace people. Still, the South Sudanese are hopeful and, despite UNHCR's non-return advisory, refugees and internally displaced persons are showing interest in heading home.

At the same time, insecurity in neighboring countries has caused nearly 300,000 persons to seek protection in South Sudan.

UNHCR South Sudan supports refugees in 21 camps and settlements across the country, and is heavily involved in the IDP response throughout the country. UNHCR is also working closely with South Sudan's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission and other partners to monitor spontaneously returning South Sudanese refugees and their protection needs.

Key Updates

- A face-to-face meeting between President Salva Kiir and main opposition leader Dr. Riek Machar in September raised confidence amongst the South Sudanese. It was the first time the two had met in person since a joint visit to the Vatican in April.
- The parties to the peace agreement progressed with plans to canton soldiers as part of their efforts to create a unified army which is a positive step towards peace. However, the cantonment sites present protection challenges for neighboring communities, including refugees.
- In an encouraging development for Sudanese refugees, Sudanese opposition groups agreed on a roadmap to peace with the Sudanese government on 11 September.

Refugee Response

September Highlights

Detained asylum seekers released

South Sudan's Commission for Refugee Affairs and UNHCR secured the release of 20 registered asylum-seekers in September after they were detained by immigration officials in Juba, Central Equatoria State. The CRA and UNHCR have noted an increase in such detentions as immigration officials have ramped up efforts to screen for undocumented foreigners over the course of the year. Asylum-seekers were released without charges and their documents were returned. Asylum-seekers and refugees are exempt from procedures related to alien registration because their registration and documentation is governed by South Sudan's 2012 Refugee Act. UNHCR continues to work with CRA and other partners in enhancing awareness among immigration authorities on the registration, documentation and labor rights of asylum-seekers and refugees.

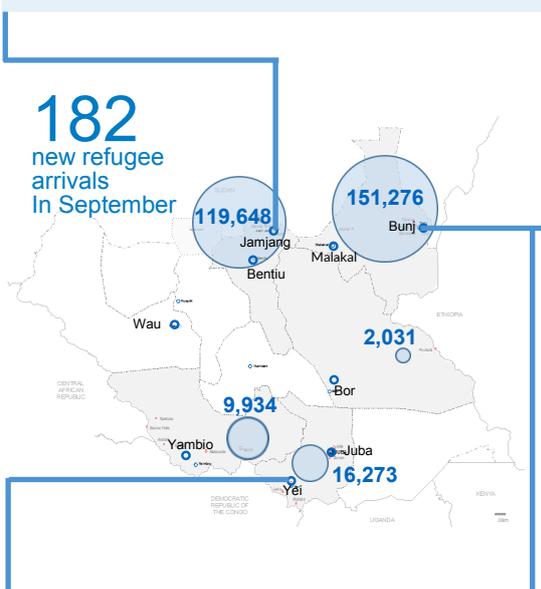
UNHCR responds to flooding in Maban's refugee camps

Seasonal flooding intensified in September in greater Maban County, which hosts four refugee camps, destroying infrastructure and displacing communities. The airstrip was damaged and, critically, the area's main overland supply route was rendered unusable. While life-saving services, such as health care, kept operating, several primary schools were closed, and recreational activities for children and youth had to be put on hold. An increase in stagnant water led to an uptick in malaria cases,

KEY CHALLENGES

Maintaining the civilian character of asylum

When refugees first fled conflict in Sudan's South Kordofan State in 2011, they spontaneously settled in Yida. Because of Yida's proximity to the border — just 20 km from Sudan — and the associated protection risks, South Sudan's government has been encouraging refugees to relocate to Ajuong Thok and Pamir camps since 2016. In September, UNHCR assisted 181 individuals in making the move. However, as of September 30, 46,206 refugees remained in Yida.



Armed conflict

Ongoing fighting between government forces and armed opposition groups that didn't sign the 2018 peace agreement limits access to refugee settlements in Central Equatoria.

Cantonment

Soldiers are gathering nearby Maban refugee camps in Liang, Upper Nile. UNHCR is monitoring for protection issues.

Flooding

Beginning in August, flooding in Maban has displaced thousands and hobbled humanitarian service delivery.

which accounted for 40 percent of morbidities observed during the month.

In response:

- UNHCR and partner Action Africa Help International worked with the government to repair the road to Renk, providing fuel to trucks ferrying marram to the site, and technical expertise and labour. After a bridge on the road to Yusuf Batil camp collapsed, engineers back-filled the ditch, making the road passable.
- UNHCR and partner Danish Refugee Council distributed tents and plastic sheeting to 280 vulnerable refugee families whose homes were damaged by flooding in Gendrassa and Kaya refugee camps.
- Also in Kaya and Gendrassa refugee camps, UNHCR, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and ACTED, finalized the distribution of seeds and tools to 2,429 refugee families. The seeds will support farmers whose crops were damaged by flooding. Meanwhile, in Bunj town and Doro and Yusuf Batil refugee camps, UNHCR partner Relief International registered 9,600 families to receive similar support.
- Across Maban's four refugee camps, UNHCR and partners reached 495 community members through an awareness campaign addressing child protection issues related to flooding, such as drowning.

Cholera prevention efforts intensified after Sudan outbreak

UNHCR and partners intensified cholera prevention efforts after Sudan's Ministry of Health announced an outbreak in its Blue Nile State in September. More than 100 cases have been confirmed and 6 people have died. Movement between Blue Nile State and Maban is fluid, which puts refugees at high risk.



KEY PROTECTION ACHIEVEMENTS

SGBV PREVENTION

31 sexual and gender-based violence cases identified and supported

1,513 people trained in preventing SGBV and sexual exploitation and abuse

8,791 people provided with information on referral pathways and available services for SGBV survivors

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

60 detention monitoring visits conducted

29 traditional court sessions monitored

22 people provided with legal counseling

CHILD PROTECTION

39 separated/unaccompanied children identified and provided case management services

3 separated/unaccompanied children reunited with biological parents

220 at-risk children provided food or material assistance, such as clothing, blankets or mosquito nets

9,516 children participated in recreational activities in child friendly spaces

UNHCR joined a cholera-prevention task force formed by the Ministry of Health, and is working with WHO and UNICEF to preposition diagnostic and treatment kits. UNHCR also teamed up with International Medical Corps to train village health and nutrition committees in Doro, Gendrassa and Kaya refugee camps on cholera response and referral. A total of 127 refugees participated, including 64 women and 63 men. Meanwhile, UNHCR and partners trained refugee community health promoters on case identification and early referral to health facilities and continued its regular cholera prevention awareness campaigns.

New medical diagnostic tool will improve care for Tuberculosis patients

Doctors at the primary health care centre in Jamjang, Unity State, are better equipped to treat multi-drug-resistant Tuberculosis thanks to a cutting-edge diagnostic machine installed in September. The machine, called GeneXpert, enables clinicians to identify if a person is infected with Tuberculosis and also if the bacteria has resistance to one of the common antibiotics used to treat it, making it easier to design a successful treatment plan.

Previously doctors in Jamjang had to send samples to Juba for testing, where administrative and logistical challenges often delayed results. This meant not only prolonged suffering for patients, but also an increased risk of disease transmission.

The GeneXpert, which was procured with funding from the Global Fund through the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, can also be used to test the viral load for HIV patients, and rapidly diagnose Ebola. UNHCR has procured four more GeneXperts to be distributed to other health facilities.

Gendrassa refugee camp completes its first democratic election

Refugees in Gendrassa refugee camp on 11 September democratically elected leaders for the first time since the camp was established in 2013. The Commission for Refugee Affairs organized the elections, which were conducted using secret ballots, in coordination with UNHCR and partner Danish Refugee Council. Previous leadership was appointed by powerful politicians from Blue Nile State, Sudan. Installing democratically leadership is an important aspect of maintaining the civilian character of asylum.

Fistula treatment. UNHCR flew five refugee women from Jamjang and Maban to Aweil State Hospital for surgery to treat obstetric fistula on 16 September. The surgeries were conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Health.

Perma-gardens. Families participating in a UNHCR-ACTED perma-gardening program harvested and sold more than 170 kg of vegetables in September, raising a net income of SSP 139,050 (USD 874). Meanwhile, UNHCR and partner Relief International trained 60 families on perma gardening techniques in Yusuf Batil and Doro refugee camps. After the training, 43 perma gardens were established.

Sexual health education. UNHCR and partner African Humanitarian Action conducted sexual reproductive health awareness training at eight youth clubs at Soba Secondary School in Jamjang, Unity. The training supports UNHCR's strategy to reduce teenage pregnancy and the risk of acquiring HIV/AIDS infection among youth.

Ensuring Access to Basic Services

Enabling refugees to meet their basic needs is an integral part of protection as it decreases the risk for negative coping mechanisms. As such, UNHCR employs a multi-sector response, working with partners to ensure refugees are sheltered, and have access to education, health care, and adequate water and sanitation services. Recognizing the responsibility to protect refugees rests with the state, UNHCR coordinates with the government to build on the resources of refugees and hosting communities.



A refugee mother and child in Bunj referral hospital where the little one received treatment. © UNHCR/Elizabeth Stuart

EDUCATION

533 students received scholastic materials, such as exercise books, pens and school uniforms

27 students selected for DAFI (Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative) scholarship programme.

110 refugee and host community teachers benefitted from teacher's training

FOOD SECURITY & NUTRITION

17,139 children screened for malnutrition

850 malnourished children identified and referred for services

3,750 children reached through supplementary nutrition programming

3,281 pregnant and breastfeeding women screened for malnutrition

573 malnourished pregnant and breastfeeding women identified and referred for services

1,981 mothers reached through supplementary nutrition programming

 **HEALTH**

66,169 people consulted with healthcare professionals at health facilities. 16% of those patients came from the host community. In Pariang hospital the host community accounted for 99% while in Bunj hospital it was 57%

491 patients started on antiretroviral therapy for HIV/AIDS. 42% are from the host community

1808 new patients admitted for inpatient care. 26% of those patients came from the host community

80 patients started on treatment for Tuberculosis

550 babies delivered at emergency obstetric and newborn care facilities

81169 number of refugees were reached through health education initiatives, including Ebola virus disease

 **SHELTER & NON-FOOD ITEMS**

309 families received emergency shelter materials, such as tents and plastic sheeting

33 portable solar lamps were distributed to vulnerable refugee families

9 shelters constructed for persons with specific needs

144 women and girls provided feminine hygiene kits

 **WATER & SANITATION**

41,357 refugees were reached through health and hygiene promotion campaigns

253 household latrines constructed

148,441 refugees received soap

 **ACCESS TO ENERGY**

1,314 fuel efficient stoves produced by refugees

287 refugees were trained on energy efficient cooking practices

11,500 trees planted

5,893 trees marked for protection

13,619 tree seedlings distributed, including passion fruit, teak, acacia, lemon, guava, pawpaw, neem and mango

Spontaneous Refugee Return



213,376

Reported number of Spontaneous Refugee Returnees*

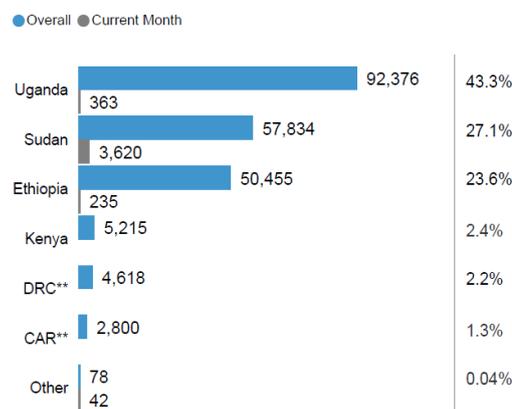
This number represents the total returns corroborated from November 2017 to date

4,260 recorded in September 2019



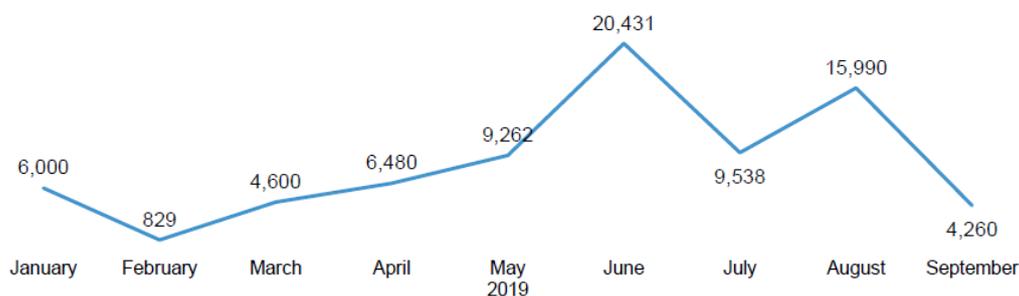
2,235,503 South Sudanese Refugees in host countries as of 31 August 2019

Spontaneous Refugee Returnees by Country of Asylum



** CAR: Central African Republic, DRC: Democratic Republic of the Congo

Spontaneous Refugee Return Trend***



***Historical data might change retroactively due to late reporting and time required to triangulate information

September Highlights

UNHCR, partners and the South Sudan's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission continued its monitoring of spontaneous return movements at 42 border crossing points.

- Spontaneous refugee returns in September continue to be characterized as spontaneous and self-organized.
- The major factors for spontaneous returns continues to be the improvement of security and peace agreement implementation in South Sudan.

- Refugee return movements decreased in September due to the rainy season and impassable roads.
- The majority of South Sudanese refugee returned from Sudan (3,620), Uganda (363), Ethiopia (235). They travelled by car, boat and on foot.

IDP Response

September Highlights

Civilians displaced by fighting in Maiwut in need of food, medical aid

Civilians in Maiwut, Upper Nile, are in urgent need of food and medical aid, according to a protection monitoring mission conducted by UNHCR and its partner ADRA on 26 September. Armed conflict between 31 July and 9 September displaced thousands from their homes. While the security situation has since quieted, civilians reported feeling unsafe venturing into the bush to collect firewood or wild fruit. The shutdown of main trade routes from Ethiopia has translated into climbing prices for basic items, such as soap and cooking oil. Shelters have been burned and looted. Education and healthcare services have halted. Many humanitarian agencies evacuated staff when the clashes ignited; however, based on the analysis, UNHCR and ADRA are planning an interagency assistance mission in October.

Emergency support provided to new IDPs and IDP returnees

UNHCR and partners provided support to newly displaced and IDP returnees in various parts of the country in September.

- Yei Town received hundreds of new IDPs from Logo in September as a result of clashes between armed groups. UNHCR partner UMCOR registered the IDPs as they arrived and supplied 871 of the most vulnerable with plastic sheeting, sleeping mats, mosquito nets, blankets, clothing, and buckets. UNHCR and UMCOR are also providing psychosocial

support and conducting SGBV prevention programming.

- In the Gogrial East and Tonj West areas of Warrap, more than 80,000 people have been forced to flee from their homes as a result of severe seasonal flooding. UNHCR provided plastic sheeting, mosquito nets and soap to 200 of the most vulnerable people. UNHCR also joined an assessment mission that will inform a forthcoming comprehensive inter-agency response.
- UNHCR and partner Women Development Group supported 1,300 IDPs who have returned to Wau. Support included blankets, plastic sheeting, soap and mosquito nets. More IDPs have returned to areas that were deserted five months ago.

Low interest in return among remaining IDPs in Wau's Protection of Civilians site

While many IDPs have left the UNMISS Wau Protection of Civilians site, of those remaining, just 14% are considering returning home, according to a UNHCR protection profiling analysis completed in September. This is the lowest rate of interest among residents of the country's six PoC sites.

Similar to other PoC sites, insecurity in areas of return/relocation (80%) remains the top reason preventing households to consider leaving the PoC site. Forty-four percent indicated reticence to return because their houses had been destroyed and



Internally displaced women from vulnerable households are walking back to their homes after receiving non-food items from UNHCR in Bor. © UNHCR/Komma Godfrey Andrugaa

35% cited a lack of financial means.

Thirty-percent of households were found to have at least one person with specific needs, including 13% with at least one woman at risk, 11% with at least one single parent, 7% with at least one person with a medical condition, 6% with at least one person with disability and 5% with at least one elderly person at risk. Data collected through the profile analysis will be used for advocacy on protection mainstreaming and solutions programming. This will enhance case management, referral systems and the overall humanitarian response in the sites.

Destruction of property major obstacle to return, UNHCR analysis finds

The most common land and housing issue facing IDPs living in UNMISS PoC sites who wish to return to their homes is destruction of property, according to a comparative

analysis UNHCR concluded in September. Sites analyzed included all six PoC sites, including Juba PoC 1 and 3, Malakal, Bentiu, Bor, and Wau PoC Adjacent Area as well as the Leer Temporary Protection Area. The analysis will help UNHCR and partners to strengthen programming to assist IDPs with housing, land and property issues.

UNHCR and partner Humanitarian Development Consortium already have a successful program to address illegal occupation. Since January, the partnership has helped more than 300 IDPs living in Juba PoC sites to reoccupy lost land and houses using alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

IDPs in Jub continue to request assistance returning home

UNHCR protection desks continue to receive applications from IDPs in Juba PoC sites 1 and 3, Mahad, Don Bosco and Mangateen IDP collective sites for assis-

tance voluntarily returning or relocating. To date, 949 households comprising of 3,139 individuals have registered intentions to return/relocate to different areas across South Sudan. This information will feed into the activity of the Central Equatoria Solutions Working Group, which is co-led by UNHCR and UNDP.

UNHCR consults with IDPs to inform 2020 planning

UNHCR and partners conducted participatory assessments with IDPs across the country in September as part of its 2020 planning. Highlights included:

- In Wau, Western Bahr El-Ghazal, where Women Development Group assisted with consultations, IDPs said their main concern had shifted from insecurity to the improvement and repair of destroyed homes.
- In Malakal, Upper Nile, during focus group discussions conducted in partnership with Humanitarian Development Consortium, IDPs identified a need for improved access to clean water and sanitation, and requested assistance with food and basic household items, such as mosquito nets, blankets and jerry cans.
- Teenagers consulted in Kodok, Upper Nile, raised concern about child labor and early marriage forcing some to drop out of school. Many children were separated from their parents during the war and struggle to care for themselves and other family members.

National Plan to support IDP returns

South Sudan's Council of Ministers endorsed a 'National Framework for Return, Reintegration and Relocation of Displaced Persons' on 20 September. UNHCR supported the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management and the Relief

and Rehabilitation Commission of South Sudan with preparations to launch the framework. An official event is planned for the first week of October.

Protection monitoring in Malakal Town

On 25-26 September, UNHCR and partner Humanitarian Development Consortium conducted a protection assessment in Malakal Town aiming to verify reports that 500 IDPs, who the government had assisted to return from Juba, were sheltering in a local Catholic Church and schools. During the exercise 110 IDPs were interviewed and 5 focus group discussions were conducted. The IDPs said they were transported to Malakal in June 2017 as part of a group of 9,000 intended to populate the town. A majority of that group successfully reintegrated into their places of origin in various parts of Upper Nile. However, 390 IDPs decided to remain in town because of available services. Most of them are from Baliet, Kaka, Melut and Atar. The findings were reported to the government, which has committed to finding a more durable solution for the IDPs.

Financial Update

2019 funding received for South Sudan Operation in USD

| | |
|--|------------|
| United States of America | 23,900,000 |
| Japan | 3,097,482 |
| CERF | 1,400,035 |
| Republic of Korea | 1,164,000 |
| European Union | 1,111,724 |
| Switzerland | 753,012 |
| Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints | 600,005 |
| Canada | 569,909 |
| France | 568,182 |
| Luxembourg | 366,109 |
| IGAD | 222,324 |
| Foundation de Luxembourg | 111,483 |
| UN Programme On HIV/AIDS | 30,000 |
| Miscellaneous private donors | 35,000 |
| Indicative allocation of funds and adjustments | 51,226,204 |

Contributions earmarked for the South Sudan Situation (including neighboring countries hosting refugees)

United States of America 54.3 M | **Private donors Australia** 9.1 M | **Germany** 9.1 M | **Canada** 4.6 M | **Sweden** 3.1 M | **Private donors Germany** 2.7 M | Norway | Private donors

Unearmarked contributions to UNHCR's global operation

Sweden 99.8 M | **Private donors Spain** 54.5 M | **Norway** 44.5 M | **Netherlands** 37.5 M | **United Kingdom** 31.7 M | **Private donors Republic of Korea** 27.6 M | **Germany** 26.7 M | **Denmark** 24.4 M | **Switzerland** 15.1 M | **Private donors Japan** 14.2 M | **France** 14 M | **Private donors Italy** 12.7 M | **Private donors Sweden** 10.4 M | **Ireland** 10.2 M

Algeria | Argentina | Australia | Austria | Azerbaijan | Belgium | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Indonesia | Islamic Republic of Pakistan | Kuwait | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Portugal | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Slovakia | Sri Lanka | Thailand | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Private donors

Further information

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