



South Sudan

January 2020

POPULATIONS OF CONCERN

299,315

Number of **refugees in South Sudan**. 93% come from Sudan, 5% from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 1% from Ethiopia, and 1% from the Central African Republic.

1.47 million

Number of **internally displaced persons (IDPs)** in South Sudan, 13% of which are staying inside six UNMISS Protection of Civilians sites.

262,876

Number of **South Sudanese** refugees who have returned in a self-organized manner (November 2017 - 31 January 2020) **2.2** million remain in neighbouring countries

FUNDING

\$177.3 million

requested for the operation in 2020





Farida, a Sudanese refugee woman, proudly holds her certificate after completing a welding and metal fabrication training and receiving a start-up kit. "Although people usually think that welding and metal fabrication are men's jobs, women can also do it because they are as strong" says Farida. © UNHCR/Martim Gray Pereira

In this issue

- Road, shelter, and water and sanitation infrastructure repairs move forward in flood-damaged greater Maban County, Upper Nile State, where UNHCR and partners are assisting 150,000 refugees and 50,000 host community members. (Page 3)
- UNHCR and partner Samaritan's Purse host a team of eye surgeons who operated on 273 refugees and host community members with cataracts in greater Maban County, Upper Nile State. (Page 4)
- More than **2,300 children from the refugee and host communities receive care** through UNHCR's community-based management of acute malnutrition programme. (Page 6)
- UNHCR's IDP Protection Unit conducts six protection monitoring missions in Unity and Upper Nile States. (Page 10)



Operational Context



A Protection Monitor with UNHCR partner Danish Refugee Council (in orange) discusses the risks of female genital mutilation with refugees in Maban County, 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 intracommunal violence that continues to displace people. Still, the South Sudanese are hopeful and, despite UN-HCR's non-return advisory for refugees, many displaced persons are showing interest in heading home.

At the same time, insecurity in neighboring countries has pushed nearly 300,000 refugees into South Sudan. UNHCR South Sudan supports refugees in 21 camps and settlements across the country, and is heavily involved in aiding IDPs and IDP returnees through the country's protection and camp management humanitarian clusters.

UNHCR is also working with South Sudan's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission and other partners to monitor spontaneously returning refugees' protection needs, and advocate for the vulnerable among them to be included in existing aid mechanisms.

Key Updates

- President Salva Kiir and main opposition leader Dr. Riek Machar met several times in January to discuss key sticking points in the implementation of the peace agreement, such as the number of states and transitional security arrangements, with little progress.
- Sudanese refugee peace delegates returned to Maban, Upper Nile, on 13 January after participating in peace negotiations with the Sudanese government in Juba facilitated by President Salva Kiir.
- The reporting period was characterized by reports of forced recruitment, leading to an increased number of youth seeking safety in the UNMISS Protection of Civilian site in Bentiu, Unity.



Refugee Response

January Highlights

Flood response continues in Maban

UNHCR and partners, in January, continued to deliver aid and work repairing infrastructure damaged during severe flooding in October 2019. Key achievements included:

- Emergency supplies. UNHCR distributed core relief items to refugees living in the Doro settlement, reaching 17,313 people, which represents just under 50 percent of targeted households. Blankets, buckets, mosquito nets, sleeping mats, jerry cans, plastic tarpaulins, and sanitary napkins have been prepositioned for delivery to host community members affected by the flood.
- Water. UNHCR and partner ACTED rehabilitated 16 damaged water points in Batil and Gendrassa refugee camps. Safe water was distributed at a rate of 20 litres per person per day. Meanwhile, 35 wells in Doro refugee camp and the host community were cleaned and flushed. Shock chlorination is underway. More than 7,278 community members were reached with safe-water-chain messaging, and cleaned 14,794 water containers.
- Sanitation. Two-hundred-and-sixty-two mud brick household latrines, 177 emergency shared household latrines, and 35 institutional latrines were completed. More than 800 damaged latrines were decommissioned. At the same time, 482 household latrines assessed were clean. A total of 262 hand washing facilities were assessed and of which 53% functional.

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 refugee camps since 2016. In January, UNHCR assisted 879 individuals in making the move. Still, about 45,471 refugees remained in Yida.



between government forces and armed opposition groups that didn't sign the 2018 peace agreement limits access to refugee settlements in Central Equatoria. Soldiers are gathering nearby Maban refugee camps in Upper Nile. UNHCR is monitoring for protection issues.

Flooding

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



- Infrastructure repair. UNHCR in partnership with Africa Action Help International (AAHI) continued with major repair of road sections along Airstrip – Kaya road that were damaged by flooding, enabling continued access for the delivery of protection assistance and lifesaving services to both refugee and host communities. The total length of road refurbished in the reporting period is 2.44km.
- Education. UNHCR and partner Danish Refugee Council (DRC) completed repairs of 32 school classrooms that required maintenance following the flooding.

273 cataract removal surgeries performed

UNHCR partner Samaritan's Purse (SP) brought a team of 12 eye specialists from the across the world to Bunj town located in greater Maban County, Upper Nile State, to conduct an eye clinic and cataract removal. Six hundred patients were screened and, out them, 273 patients (136 refugees and 101 members of the host community) had cataracts surgically removed. The clinic was conducted in Bunj Hospital.

Education mapping conducted to support interventions for out-of-school children

In Maban, the National Ministry of General Education and Instruction in partnership with UNHCR and education partners: Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and Save the Children International (SCI), completed the mapping exercise on the out of school children which started on the 3rd and ended on the 14th of January 2020. The purpose of the nationwide mapping exercise is to gather demographic and related data of school age children who are out of school in order to develop targeted interventions that will help bring them to school beyond 2020.

Refugee farmers to sell seeds to IRC

In Jamjang, 220 lead farmers (97 women and 123

KEY PROTECTION ACHIEVEMENTS

SGBV PREVENTION

84 sexual– and gender-based violence cases supported through case management, case mediation and legal and health services

5,609 refugees reached through advocacy activities to improve knowledge of SGBV prevention and response

167 extremely vulnerable persons, including women and girls at risk for SGBV, supported with food and non-food items

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

75 detention monitoring visits conducted

44 traditional court sessions monitored

18 refugees provided legal counseling

CHILD PROTECTION

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

3,382 children participated in recreational activities in child friendly spaces



men) from Pamir and Ajoung Thok refugee camps participated in two meetings to discuss the procurement of local seeds. During these meetings, the lead farmers agreed to sell seeds to International Rescue Committee at the following prices per kilogram: 0.83 USD for sorghum; 1 USD for groundnuts; 1.71 USD for sesame; and 1 USD for cowpeas.

Community health promoters trained to identify common diseases

Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA) conducted a five-day training for community health and hygiene promoters (CHHP) on communicable disease prevention and hygiene from the 20th to 24th of January. The capacity building initiative aimed at increasing knowledge and skills of the CHHPs in the identification and detection of communicable diseases, with subsequent provision of appropriate control and preventive interventions through improving community awareness on associated health and hygiene practices. The training was attended by 63 participants (19 women and 44 men).

Refugees relocating to Jamjang camps

UNHCR partner the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) assisted 155 refugee households settling in one of the Jamjang refugee camps following their relocation from Yida (50 in Ajoung Thok and 105 in Pamir). Out of this group, 143 households were supported with shelter plots to settle and construct their shelters (48 in Ajoung Thok and 95 in Pamir), while the remaining 12 households opted for settling in the plots of relatives already living in the camps. Meanwhile, the team identified 1,339 empty plots (401 in Ajoung Thok and 938 in Pamir) to be allocated to relocated refugees from Yida.

Fire survivors assisted in Jamjang

UNHCR and partner DRC distributed core relief items, such as plastic sheeting, blankets, sleeping mats, buckets and clothing, to seven families whose homes were damaged by fire during the reporting period. In light the incident, UNHCR and DRC are developing fire prevention messaging to be broadcasted on FM radio.

Two new nutrition stabilization centers completed

UNHCR handed over newly constructed stabilization centers (SC) in Ajoung Thok and Pamir refugee camps to its health and nutrition partner IRC and AHA respectively. The SC will support in management of children suffering from medical complications from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM).



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 multisector response, working with government and partners to ensure refugees are sheltered and fed, and have access to education, health care, and adequate water and sanitation services. Key sectoral highlights are listed below. (UNHCR strives to strengthen inter-communal bonds, so numbers include both refugees and host community members unless specified.)



Sudanese refugees and South Sudanese host community students look through microscopes in chemistry class at Soba secondary school in Ajoung Thok camp. © UNHCR/Martim Gray Pereira

EDUCATION

School adjourned from December to 3 February.

FOOD SECURITY & NUTRITION

207,601 refugees received food or cash for food during World Food Programme general distributions

3,053 people received counseling on best practices in infant and young child feeding **11,907** children aged 6-23 months received supplementary food to prevent malnutrition

6,632 pregnant and breastfeeding women received supplementary food to prevent malnutrition **2,389** children under 5 received care through the community-based management of Acute Malnutrition programme (39 of those were in stabilization centres)



🕏 HEALTH

50,025 people consulted with healthcare professionals at UNHCRsupported facilities (23% of those were from the host community)

1,739 new patients were admitted for inpatient care (22% were from the host community)

663 babies were delivered at UNHCR-supported obstetric and newborn care facilities

21 pregnant women received treatment to prevent the transmission of HIV/AIDs from mother to child **648** patients living with HIV/AIDs received antiretroviral treatment

170 patients received treatment for Tuberculosis

48,278 refugees were reached through health education initiatives

👬 SHELTER & NON-FOOD ITEMS

177 families received tents or shelter materials, such as tents, plastic sheeting, corrugated metal roofing or other materials **6,637** people received core relief items, such as blankets, sleeping mats, soap, buckets, mosquito nets, and kitchen sets 147,435 people received soap, buckets, or jerry cans

WATER & SANITATION

533 household and community latrines were constructed, bringing the number of persons per latrine to 12

20.25 average liters of safe water were provided per refugee per day in January

116,358 people were reached through hygiene promotion and safe-water chain campaigns



IDP Response

January Highlights

Durable solutions

Central Equatoria

- More than 3,300 IDPs in Central Equatoria have requested assistance returning to their areas of origin during the dry season. Requests to go to Jonglei are most common (1,151), followed by Upper Nile (930), Unity (646), Eastern Equatoria (381), Central Equatoria (219), and Western Bahr El Ghazal (1). The Central Equatoria Solutions Working Group shared the list of names to the Solutions Working Groups in the desired return areas to commence individualized protection assessments, which include personal interviews with receiving friends and family. Note: The Solutions Working Groups represent a multi-agency effort to find durable solutions for IDPs.
- A Vulnerability Verification and Return Intentions for Don Bosco IDP collective site in Juba was completed and a report issued. Between December 2019 and January 2020. UNHCR and partners have conducted and shared vulnerability assessment reports for IDPs in POC 1, POC 3 and Don Bosco collective site.

Upper Nile

 UNHCR coordinated in-depth assessments and conflict analysis in Baliet to ensure that due diligence process required by the HCT Framework on IDP returns is followed in assisting returns of 20,000 plus IDPs from Melut. The assessment made inquiries on movement dynamics, protection concerns including housing land and property, sexual gender based violence, access to humanitarian services, child protection, education, livelihoods and environmental issues. The assessment was triggered by a request from IDPs in Melut IDPs settlement of Khor Adar, Dingthona 1 and Dingthona 2 to return to Baliet in Upper Nile, Khorfulus and Atar in Jonglei. Baliet assessment has so far indicated conducive conditions for return. Upper Nile SWG is organizing Jonglei assessments expected to take place in February 2020.

• UNHCR in collaboration with DRC and HDC conducted a post return monitoring assessment in Malakal town, targeting households who returned to Malakal between August to December 2019. The assessment team observed a calm security situation and a good relationship between the returnees and host communities. Returnees have access to basic services including water, education and health.

Protection activities

Central Equatoria

 IDP profiling was conducted in Yei and Lasu to identify protection concerns and most vulnerable cases. Identified cases will receive targeted assistance and UNHCR will advocate with key actors to ensure that they are assisted accordingly.

Jonglei

 UNHCR intensified response to IDPs and host communities affected by devastating floods in Jonglei State, resulting in displacement of people, loss





UNHCR staff collect information for an IDP intention survey in Wau, Western Bahr El-Ghazal in 2019. © UNHCRO

of crops, destruction of shelter and outbreak of diseases. UNHCR has reached 2,404 (1423F, 981M) people in Akobo and 853 (763F, 90M) in Pibor through direct assistance to identified persons with specific needs, referral for specialized assistance and strengthening community resilience.

- An inter-agency response in Lasu covering 755 IDP households was conducted. The following agencies participated: ACROSS, ARD, Institute for Promotion of Civil Society (IPCS), IOM, Non-Violence Peace Force, UNHCR, UNOCHA, and UNICEF.
- UNHCR and GBV Sub-Cluster coordinated health and psychosocial response services including providing non-food items to three IDP rape cases reported by the Yei River State Governor from Lasu.

Upper Nile

 Following advocacy with authorities, 4,600 plots of land were allocated to IDPs and refugee returnees in Manyo County, Upper Nile State.

On 29 January, UNHCR through Humanitarian Development Consortium (HDC) launched a vocational skills training project with UNMISS CIVIC for the construction of floating jetties to be used by IDPs in Baliet county. The project targeted 9 IDP returnees, who recently returned to their places of origin from Melut to Baliet County. They will be provided basic skills in construction of floating jetty. Floating jetties will improve their ability to fish further away from shore. Fishing is one of man livelihood activities in Baliet and trained IDPs will also train other fishermen.

Western Bahr El-Ghazal

 Fourteen persons with specific medical needs were referred to International Medical Corps (IMC); 12 cases in the PoCs and 2 cases in Cathedral clinics.
100 shelters, which began construction in 2019, were completed in January.



- UNHCR dispatched a response team to Abyei to conduct a protection assessment and provide response to the most vulnerable IDPs following an attack of Abyeu town by Mesiiriya. 100 of the most vulnerable displaced families were provided core relief items and the team supported family reunification of six abducted children. UNOCHA in Abyei requested training for the NGOs on the ground who have limited protection capacity.
- The Solutions Working Group in Wau, which UNHCR leads, coordinated assistance to 750 IDPs evicted from a government beer factory that was turned into a military training site. The matter was escalated to the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group, which will engage in advocacy with the government on a national level.

Western Equatoria

 UNHCR and JRS distributed non-food items to 518 (302 females, 206 males) vulnerable persons in Rimenze IDP settlement. Psychological counseling to SGBV survivors is ongoing.

Protection monitoring

Unity

 UNHCR conducted four protection monitoring missions to Kaljak, Ngop, Dhorbor, Dingding, Pakur and Tong, as well as Southern Unity Counties of Koch, Leer and Mayandit from the 13th to 17th of January. UNHCR assessed protection conditions, provided targeted assistance and flagged protection concerns to local authorities, chiefs, county commissioners, RRC/ROSS coordinators, SPLA-IO, UNMISS and humanitarian agencies.

Upper Nile

 UNHCR conducted two field missions in Melut and Rambo village in Longochuk County, following a request from government officials. The mission to Melut assessed the general protection situation after the floods which resulted in IDPs from Khorodar to moving out of the settlement. Currently, the situation is calm although the IDPs are in dire need of humanitarian assistance. UNHCR will continue to monitor the situation and involve relevant agencies. In Rambo UNHCR sought to asses and verify government information on the displacement of 5,000 civilians in Maiwut upon arrival in Rambo. The team found that the number of displaced populations were far less than reported, approximately 500 people. Assessment reports were shared with relevant stakeholders to advocate for protection response.

Jonglei

 Protection monitoring teams reported the crossing of 500 civilians (including IDPs and host communities) via Bor Deck to Uganda. The people expressed fear over expected tension and possible fighting related to formation of a transitional government on 22 February 2020.



Partnerships

Government Partners: Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, Ministry of Interior, Commission for Refugee Affairs, Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, Directorate of Nationality, Passports and Immigration

Partners: Action Africa Help International (AAHI), Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA), Association of Christian Resource Organization Serving Sudan (ACROSS), ACTED, Care International (CARE), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Food for the Hungry (FFH), Handicap International (HI), Hope Restoration South Sudan (HRSS), Humanitarian Development Consortium (HDC), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Medical Corps (IMC), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Internews, IsraAID, Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), Lutheran World Foundation (LWF), Medecins Sans Frontiere (MSF) Mentor Initiative, Nile Hope, Relief International (RI), Samaritan Purse (SP), Save the Children, Serving in Mission (SIM),

Financial Update

2019 funding received for South Sudan Operation in USD

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to US \$8.3 million, for financial year 2020 as of 6 February. UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with un-earmarked and broadly earmarked funds.



Contributions earmarked for the South Sudan Situation (including neighboring countries hosting refugees): Canada \$2.3 million | Luxembourg | Morocco | Slovakia | United States of America | Private donors

Unearmarked contributions to UNHCR's global operation: Sweden 76.4 million | Norway 41.4 million | Netherlands 36.1 million | Denmark 34.6 million | United Kingdom 31.7 million | Germany 26.4 million | Switzerland 16.4 million | Belgium | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Indonesia | Ireland | Kuwait | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Portugal |Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Turkey | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Private donors

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