Snapshot of the sectoral response in Maban County, South Sudan

Gendrassa Refugee Camp

20,984	1,273	1	4	27	1	1
Refugees in Gendrassa	Sudanese new arrivals	Health clinic	Primary schools	Water tap stands	Reception centre	Police Post

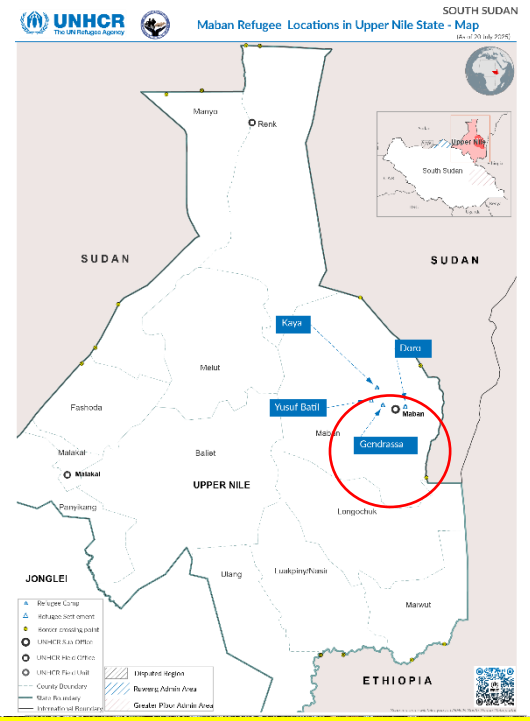
Background

- Since 16 April 2023, over 1,273 refugees and asylum-seekers fleeing the Sudan conflict have arrived in Gendrassa camp, representing a small proportion of the total new arrivals in South Sudan. These new arrivals are receiving protection assistance from UNHCR and partners. Key entry points to South Sudan include Renk and Al-Foj, with most refugees using their own means of transportation to reach the camp.

- Situated about 100 kilometres from Sudan's eastern border, Gendrassa camp in Maban County, covers 2.9 km² and currently hosts over 20,911 individuals in 4,054 households, reaching its carrying capacity. The ongoing conflict in Sudan is expected to bring additional arrivals, putting pressure on land for settlement, firewood, and other basic needs.

- The camp was established in 2012 to accommodate Sudanese refugees from Blue Nile State who fled the conflict between the Sudan People's Liberation Army/Movement-North (SPLA/M-N) and the Sudanese Armed Forces following South Sudan's independence. Many residents belong to the Ingesana ethnic group.

- Gendrassa remains one of the designated refugee-hosting sites in Maban County identified by the Government of South Sudan for those seeking safety from the ongoing Sudan conflict.



Non-Food Items (NFIs) distribution to new arrivals at Gendrassa Reception Center, Maban, South Sudan. March 2025

Sectoral Response

Protection

UNHCR has established a Field Office in Gendrassa that provides registration services to both new arrivals and refugees residing in the camp. In collaboration with UNHCR's protection partner IRC, refugees have access to two protection desks, one Women's Centre, and one Community Centre. All seven child-friendly spaces are currently closed due to funding issues.

Protection is mainstreamed across all sectors through a community-based protection approach, which involves outreach volunteers who identify and refer vulnerable cases.

A Reception Center has been set up in Gendrassa Camp to assist new arrivals before their relocation to shelters within the camp or to other camps. The services provided include handling Protection and Legal Desk cases, managing feedback for improved accountability, and supporting Child Protection (CP) and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) cases. The team also oversees Refugee Status Determination (RSD) cases, maintaining month-to-month stability while facilitating referrals as needed. Despite the closure of the child-friendly spaces, essential protection services remain accessible to refugees in the camp. Gendrassa continues to be a hub of active community engagement, with two Refugee-Led Organizations (RLOs) leading efforts to support livelihoods and governance: the Refugee Central Committee (RCC) and the Farmers Enterprise Network (FEN).

WASH

WASH interventions in Gendrassa camp are implemented by partner Relief International (RI). These interventions aim to meet basic needs and improve safe access to water of sufficient quality and quantity, sanitation, hygiene practices, and WASH services in institutions such as health and nutrition facilities and schools.

Water supply in Gendrassa camp is provided through a system comprising 13 hand pumps, 5 boreholes powered by both generator and solar, 1 borehole powered by generator only, and 0 boreholes powered by solar system only.

There are 27 tap stands distributed across the communities and institutions within the camp. On average, the daily water consumption per person is 12.5 litres, which falls below the minimum standard of 20 litres per person per day (l/p/d). This shortfall is primarily due to climate variability, system failures, leakages, and worn-out fittings, among other factors. Daily water safety monitoring is conducted through chlorination and testing for Free Residual Chlorine. Hygiene promotion activities are carried out at water points and within the communities. In terms of sanitation, using a community-led approach, RI supported the construction of 187 household latrines cumulatively by the end of June. Additionally, UNHCR, through partner AIRD, constructed 1 block of 3-stance VIP latrines to improve sanitation at the Gendrassa reception centre.

Shelter

Upon arrival, refugees are accommodated at the Reception Centre for a maximum of five days while undergoing registration. During this period, emergency family shelters are constructed for them within the camp prior to relocation.

As registration is completed and in preparation for their relocation, refugees are provided with Core Relief Items (CRIs) to support their initial settlement in the camp.

In July 2025, new emergency family shelters were constructed to accommodate the new arrivals. Refugees in the camps have access to enhanced site management services aimed at improving their living environment. These include site planning, management, and maintenance activities. Internal roads within the settlements are rehabilitated and upgraded to facilitate safe and convenient access to residential blocks and service areas.

CCCM

UNHCR and its partner IRC work to ensure coordination between humanitarians and refugees through camp-based structures known as the Camp Executive Committee (CEC).

CEC members are elected by the refugee community in each camp, with the most recent elections held in December 2024. These elections established a two-year term aimed at promoting democratic leadership and community governance, supporting future leadership aspirations within the refugee population.

Women's participation in community mobilization and self-managed structures remains low at 45%,

highlighting the need to enhance engagement in identifying protection issues and designing community-led mitigation measures.
The CEC coordinates with sectoral committees that are project-specific, such as WASH, Health and Nutrition, and Education.
In addition, the CEC plays a pivotal role in community mobilization, information dissemination, community governance, and accountability to affected populations (AAP). The CRA supervises the functions of the CEC.

Health and Nutrition

Gendrassa Camp has one health facility, known as Gendrassa PHCC. This facility has been handed over to the County Health Department–Maban, the government's line department. The PHCC has remained operational with 23 CHD incentive staff, in line with the design of the Health Sector Transformation Project (HSTP).
During the month of June, a stockout of essential medicines and medical supplies was reported. In response, UNHCR donated assorted medicines and supplies to support the continued delivery of health services. Nutrition services were consistently provided throughout June at the facility. Children suffering from severe malnutrition with medical complications were referred to Gentil PHCC+ Stabilization Centre for further treatment.

Food Assistance

Food assistance in Gendrassa camp is provided through WFP's partner, Samaritan's Purse, in coordination with UNHCR. From September 2024, targeted food distribution was rolled out, replacing blanket assistance with a ration at 50%, providing only 1,050 Kcal per person per day.
Food baskets contain cereals (mainly sorghum), lentils, cooking oil, salt, and cash for milling. In 2025, targeted distributions commenced in April, with the modality of distribution through Cash-Based Transfer (CBT) in April and May, while as of June, it was hybrid (CBT and in-kind). In the June distribution, a total of 8,755 out of 9,146 refugees (96%) received their entitlements.
Distribution is conducted at primary sites managed by WFP.
For new arrivals at the reception centre, hot meals cooked and served by RI are provided twice a day to all individuals before they are enrolled in the WFP cash-for-food programme after registration.

Education

School-aged new arrivals are integrated into the education system. More than 4,341 refugee and host community students are currently enrolled in four primary schools across the camp.
Yusuf Batil Secondary School is the only secondary school serving learners from both Gendrassa and Batil camps, while access to tertiary education is limited to the DAFI scholarships available for qualified refugees.
All four early childhood education services provided through ECD centres are closed due to funding shortages.

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