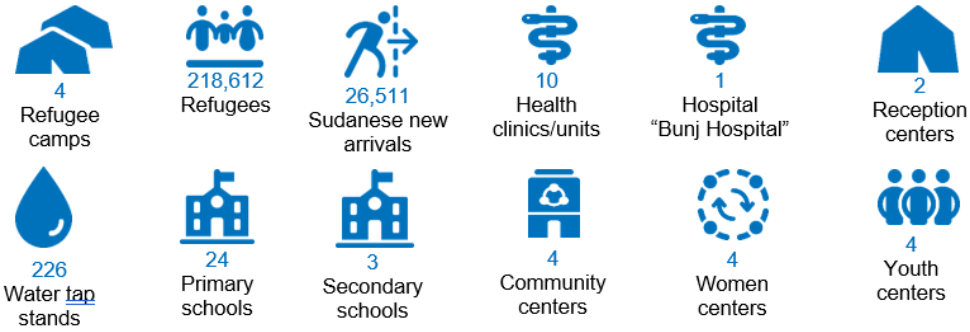
Maban Strategy 2026–2028
Advancing self-reliance, inclusion, and climate-resilient development for refugees and host communities

Context

- Maban is home to 217,000+ Sudanese refugees who arrived with the Sudan crisis, and vulnerable host communities in South Sudan.
- Refugees make up a population roughly three times the size of the host community.
- After more than a decade of displacement and recent funding cuts, refugees and hosts face strained services, limited livelihoods, and increasing climate shocks.
- To build a peaceful, inclusive, and self-reliant Maban County, where refugees, returnees, and host communities live harmoniously, access quality, climate-resilient services integrated into national systems, and thrive through sustainable economic opportunities that foster dignity and resilience for all.

Sectoral response



UNHCR's vision

UNHCR's vision is oriented towards sustainable responses that promote solutions and self-reliance while saving lives through emergency response and provision of essential basic services to the most vulnerable.

New arrivals at Kaya checkpoint, Maban, South Sudan. 2025.

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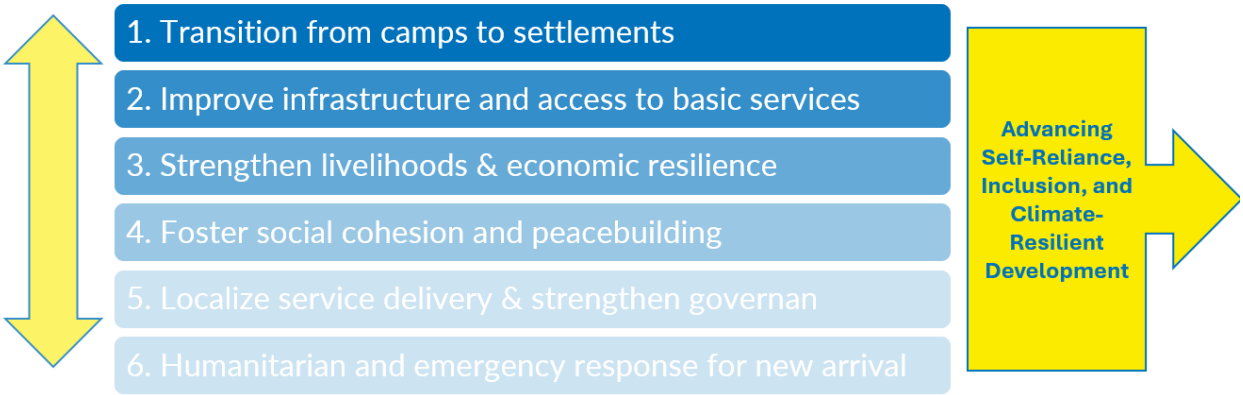
UNHCR's strategy in Maban County



Strategic objectives

1. Transition to sustainable settlements: Promote a voluntary a secure transition from camps to integrated settlements that uphold refugee rights and dignity, promote inclusion in national systems, and ensure safety throughout the process.
2. Improve infrastructure and services: Upgrade roads, water, sanitation, energy, health, and education with climate resilience and integration into government systems. Develop shared facilities to foster income generation and social cohesion.
3. Strengthen livelihoods and economic resilience: Promote self-reliance and inclusion through access to documentation, work, education, and finance. Prioritize vulnerable groups and support climate-resilient livelihoods, with security measures enabling continuity.
4. Foster social cohesion and peacebuilding: Scale-up conflict-sensitive inclusive peacebuilding and dialogue platforms to promote cooperation and peaceful coexistence.
5. Localize service delivery and governance: Handover leadership to national authorities, refugee-led and host community structures. Build institutional capacity for inclusive, accountable services and support sustainable return, reintegration, and local ownership.
6. Humanitarian and Emergency Response for new arrivals: Ensure that Maban County, humanitarian partners and communities maintains strong, locally-led capacity to deliver rapid, coordinated and protection-sensitive and emergency humanitarian assistance for any new emergency or influx of refugees, returnees or other displaced populations.

Impact

- Enhancement of self-reliance and economic resilience: empower refugees and host community with provision of livelihoods opportunities to ensure long-term stability and reduce dependency on aid and increase refugee integration into South Sudan's education, health, and livelihood systems.
- Improved infrastructure and services: with climate resilience against floods and economic shocks.
- Promotion of social cohesion and peaceful coexistence between refugees and host community.
- Stronger Local Leadership from government and communities (refugees and host community) driving inclusive, accountable services and promoting sustainable development.
- Increased efficiency and cost-effectiveness: as UNHCR advances its dual approach (humanitarian and solutions) over the coming years, interventions will prioritize value-for-money and transition toward greater self-reliance, ensuring limited resources achieve maximum impact.

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