



UNHCR Uganda Update on New Arrival Refugees from Southern Sudan and DR Congo

1. SOUTH SUDAN EMERGENCY UPDATE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

UNHCR RO Uganda and OPM offices have been receiving new arrival asylum seekers and refugees from DR Congo and Southern Sudan since July and Mid-December 2013 recording the highest numbers respectively.

The security situation in Southern Sudan and particularly around the Ugandan border crossing points remained tense and tight as security officials closely and constantly monitored an escalating ethnic conflict spreading from Juba to the Jonglei, Unity, Upper Nile and Bahr-el Ghazal states of Southern Sudan.



New Arrivals sleeping in the compound at Dzaipi Reception Centre UNHCR /Cathy M

Thousands of Southern Sudanese asylum seekers are reportedly hiding in bushes and other smaller towns until opportune times prevail for safe crossing of the Uganda border. An equal number of Southern Sudanese, who crossed the Ugandan border also remained in personal accommodation arrangements in smaller towns and villages. Most hotel accommodations and hostels in the Uganda

and Southern Sudan border areas are said to be occupied by Southern Sudanese nationals with intentions to closely monitor the situation and the fate of their families and relations, who remained behind. It will take some time for the regional leaders and the international donor community to get diplomatic and political solutions to be accepted by the Government and the forces opposed to it. Therefore, with a further continuation of the military option, loss of more human lives, displacement and conditions of flight across borders will remain major outcomes.

STATISTICS

A total of A total of 12,605 Southern Sudanese refugees have been received since mid-January 2013 up to of 3rd January 2014.

Settlement	Total
Arua	4218
Adjumani	7498
Kiryandongo	889
Total	12605

A clear breakdown of new arrivals by age and gender breakdown is being updated at the moment. However, preliminary review of new arrivals for the first few days indicated that 55% was comprising of women and children while the remaining 45 % men mainly elderly men.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Regarding tribal origin of the new arrivals 58% were from the Dinka, 22 % from Nuer and the remaining 20% were from the Bari/kakwa speaking and other tribes (Such as kuku, Lokoro, Murle, shilluk, Zande Madhi and Nubian...etc.) of Southern Sudan. However, recent demographics indicates the Nuer tiribe taking a majority status.



PSN with minor child awaiting profiling at Dzaipi Reception Centre OPM/Amaruma V

RECEPTION SITES AND ENTRY POINTS

The entry points so far used include Elegu, Oraba, Koboko and Ngomoromo of Adjumani, Arua and Lamwor districts respectively. Southern Sudanese asylum seekers to Adjumani district are reporting to the Dzaipi reception centre while those in Arua district are reporting to the Ocea reception centre and to Koboko immigration officials and while still very few (10 asylum seekers so far) crossed through Ngomoromo border point of Lamwor district around Kitgum.

Joint and regular border monitoring visits are conducted by the OPM and UNHCR colleagues from Arua and Adjumani field locations. As such, interviews with new arrival asylum seekers indicates imposition of restrictions, especially on males on the Southern Sudanese side.

2. DR CONGO EMERGENCY UPDATE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On the Bundibugyo axis, the security situation has restarted rapidly deteriorating following a predawn attack by suspected Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) armed group that is opposed to the Government of Uganda in Kamango and Kikingi areas of Eastern DRC.



Picture showing the distribution of NFI at Bubukwanga transit center. Rashid PHP consultant

STATISTICS

A total of 8,780 Congolese refugees were received as of 3rd January 2013.

Reception Centres	Total
Koboko	4000
Kisoro	2215
Bundibugyo	2565
Total	8780

A joint border monitoring mission consisting of officials from the Department of Refugees (OPM), the staff of Lutheran World Federation (LWF/WS) and UNHCR staff from Bundibugyi found out some Congolese asylum seekers, who were stranded at the border on the Congolese side by a local chief. However the refugees were released and moved on to a screening site.

UNHCR and OPM are strengthening border monitoring and the safe arrival and registration of South Sudanese as well as Congolese new arrival asylum seekers. A high-level Ugandan government delegation is visiting the situation of new arrivals in the districts of Arua, Adjumani and Lamwo in West Nile. Transport and logistics support services are being strengthened by making use of UNHCR trucks as well as trucks and buses from existing private transport service providers.

The overall security situation in Kamango and KiKingi remained tense as the fighting was moving to Kahondo, a place between Kamango and Busunga border point. As such, further continuation and escalation of the fighting in Eastern DRC will result in increased numbers of new arrival refugees into Uganda. This being said, however, security in and around the transit centres and settlements remained calm and the Government is currently beefing up presence of security personnel in and around border points.

RECEPTION SITES AND ENTRY POINTS

Existing reception centres are being expanded in order to increase their accommodation capacities, while at the same time, those refugees who have been registered are facilitated to settle into available clusters within gazetted and ungazetted lands pending further negotiation between OPM and the land owners. Core Relief items are being dispatched to the reception centres that are currently hosting new arrivals in order to meet existing needs. New arrival refugees and asylum seekers have free and unhindered access to basic needs and essential services such as public health care, water, sanitation, hygiene and hot meals are provided. UNHCR RO Kampala and OPM are making preparations to support the required emergency response through the deployment of additional staff as deemed required.

COORDINATION MECHANISM & RESPONSE

The budget submission for the emergency appeal will be based on the assessment by and recommendations of the Inter-agency Emergency Coordinating Cluster. The interagency emergency coordinating and response cluster is composed of the Department of Refugee in the government of Uganda, UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, UNFPA, FAO, WHO, MSF and other humanitarian agencies in the country.

The assessment mission will be sent to West Nile and Kiryandongo by Sunday 5th January 2014 for review and commitment by the donor community.

Regarding the need for additional emergency resources, while emergency response is being provided from available NFI stocks and dwindling funds, budgetary estimates as well as staffing requirement are being worked on at the operational level for further review and sharing with the Bureau for Africa. We shall keep you informed of the developments.

UNHCR RO Kampala