



**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

## KEY FIGURES

### INSIDE SOUTH SUDAN

**260,868**

Refugees in South Sudan

**1.853 M**

IDPs in South Sudan, including  
223,994 people in UNMISS  
Protection of Civilians site

**US \$172 million**

Funding requested for comprehensive  
needs in 2017

**US \$125 million**

Funding requested for priority needs  
in 2017

### OUTSIDE SOUTH SUDAN

**1,569,792**

South Sudanese refugees in  
neighboring countries (as of 15  
February, 2017):

- Uganda: 748,603
- Ethiopia: 342,414
- Sudan: 313,110
- Kenya: 92,540
- DRC: 68,188
- CAR: 4,932

**US \$649 million**

Funding requested by UNHCR for  
South Sudanese refugees in the region

**US \$166 million**

Funding received by UNHCR for  
South Sudanese refugees in the region

# UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE 03/2017

1-15 February 2017

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **UNHCR completes verification for displaced refugees:** In Doro refugee camp, UNHCR and partners completed the verification exercise of all the 9,000 displaced refugee families. The verification identified main challenges faced by the families and Persons with Specific Needs that require keen follow-up such as shelter, health and water.
- **Relocation of refugees from Yida settlement to Pamir Camp continues:** During the reporting period, UNHCR relocated 944 refugees to Pamir camp including new arrivals and refugees previously settled in Yida. Cumulatively, Pamir is hosting 8,342 refugees since opening in September 2016. Upon arrival, refugees received core relief items and residential plots.
- **Government Commission for Refugee Affairs registers new arrivals in Western Equatoria's Ezo County:** The Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA) has registered 102 households consisting of 297 refugee new arrivals from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) fleeing from fresh attacks by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). The refugees have reportedly fled from three locations: Mogoroko, Ngbamunga, and part of Kpanangbara. Refugees reported to the CRA that LRA rebels killed two DRC soldiers and their wives, and abducted many people and looted properties. The new arrivals are staying with refugees who had returned to the settlement in Ezo and with the host community. The CRA also noted a total population of refugees still residing in Ezo county of the 966 HHs (2809 individuals) before the most recent refugee arrivals. Since fighting broke out in Ezo county in 2015, UNHCR has had no access to the refugee camp in Ezo due to insecurity, with the camp officially closed in February 2016.
- **UNHCR partner Internews distributes radio handsets in Bentiu:** In Bentiu, UNHCR CCCM cluster partner INTERNEWS in collaboration with Mercy Corps & CARE International distributed 414 radio handsets to women support groups and hygiene promoters. The solar radios will promote access to information to the community.
- **UNHCR conducts protection monitoring mission to Pochalla:** During the reporting period, UNHCR conducted a protection monitoring mission to Pochalla in Jonglei state. The mission monitored the protection situation and updated the refugee database with new-born babies who are in the urban center and those in Alari settlement. UNHCR registered ten new-born babies bringing the population to 2,720 refugees.
- **Government conducts first refugee status determination interviews.** In Juba, South Sudan Government caseworkers conducted their first refugee status determination interviews for asylum-seekers seeking protection in South Sudan, an essential step towards the establishment of South Sudan's asylum seekers system to adjudicate applications for refugee status
- **UNHCR trains 200 refugee and host community youths in business and life skill in Unity:** In Ajuong Thok and Pamir refugee camps, UNHCR in collaboration with the host community identified 200 youths for business and life skills training. This intervention aims to assist the youths to become self-reliant.
- **NFIs Distributed to nearly 2,500 refugees in Western Equatoria:** In Makpandu refugee settlement, UNHCR partner World Vision International (WVI) distributed non-food items (NFI) to 2,412 refugees registered from 2008 up to 2013 present during the distribution. NFIs included kitchen sets, blankets, mosquito nets, sleeping mats, jerry cans, buckets and solar lanterns.

## OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

- **More Than 1.5 million Are Refugees from South Sudan:** More than 1.5 million South Sudanese have become refugees and their humanitarian needs are overwhelming aid efforts during the South Sudan's civil war, according to the UN Refugee Agency, UNHCR. South Sudan's civil war began in December 2013 and roughly 3.6 million people have fled their homes or become refugees. The country is Africa's largest refugee crisis and the third largest in the world, after Syria and Afghanistan. The humanitarian situation in South Sudan has "deteriorated dramatically," said Eugene Owusu, the Humanitarian Coordinator in South Sudan, who described the country as troubled by the threat of famine and widespread sexual violence. "We are facing unprecedented needs, in an unprecedented number of locations," Owusu said, adding that \$1.6 billion is needed to respond to the crisis as per the recently launched Humanitarian Response Plan. 7.5 million people are in need of assistance and protection, from the country's estimated 12 million population.
- **Security Council Condemns Ongoing South Sudan Fighting:** On 10 February the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) released a press release by Council President Volodymyr Yelchenko of Ukraine. The UNSC strongly condemned the ongoing fighting, highlighting in particular Upper Nile and Equatoria regions, where fighting has caused ongoing displacement and large refugee outflows to Uganda. The Council also "condemned in the strongest terms all attacks directed against civilians and expressed serious concern that, once again, there are reports of killing of civilians, sexual and gender-based violence, destruction of homes, ethnic violence and looting of livestock and properties", while also reiterating that "targeting civilians may constitute war crimes and those involved could be subject to sanctions as authorized under resolution 2206 (2015) for actions that threaten the peace, security or stability of South Sudan."
- **Thousands flee insecurity in Kajo-keji:** Thousands of people continue to flee Kajo-Keji area in South Sudan's Central Equatoria region due to ongoing insecurity caused by fighting between government and opposition forces. Thousands of people have been displaced from areas in and around Kajo-keji, causing the outflow of civilians across the border to Uganda. Refugees report killings of civilians, sexual violence, and fears of arrest and abduction as their main reasons for fleeing. There are currently around 30,000 people who were previously displaced from other locations in Central Equatoria sheltering in three internally displaced persons' sites in Liwolo area, outside of Kajo-Keji
- **President Kiir visits Yei town:** South Sudan's President Salva Kiir visited Yei town on 6 February to attend centenary celebrations of the Episcopal Church in Yei River County. The President's visit came in response to an invitation of church leaders in January 2017. At a public gathering in Yei town, President Kiir noted that the National Dialogue will be launched in the first week of March continuing for four months; "The national dialogue is a matter of urgency so that we see what will be the next step. Now our members of the national legislature are on recess, they will come back in the end of this month, so when they come, we will kick off the sessions of the national dialogue."

## REFUGEE RESPONSE



### Achievements and impact

#### Upper Nile

- In Doro refugee camp, UNHCR and partners completed the verification exercise of all displaced 9,000 refugees. The verification identified main challenges faced by the families and Persons with Specific Needs that require keen follow-ups such as shelter, health and water.
- In Doro refugee camp, host community and refugee leaders held their 11th peace and reconciliation meeting on 8 February. Refugee leaders emphasized their commitment to peaceful coexistence. However, they strongly demanded justice for the victims of the December 2016 conflict between refugees and host community.

#### Unity

- During the reporting period, UNHCR relocated 944 refugees to Pamir camp including news arrivals and refugees previously settled in Yida. Cumulatively, Pamir is hosting 8,342 refugees since opening in September 2016. Upon arrival, refugees received core relief items and residential plots.
- UNHCR conducted 76 advocacy intervention sessions to raise awareness on SGBV, including 56 sessions in Ajuong Thok camp and 20 sessions in Pamir. Cumulatively, 235 sessions have been held in 2017, 171 in Ajuong Thok and 64 Pamir.
- During the reporting period, UNHCR identified eight new cases of Sexual Gender-based Violence (SGBV) in Ajuong Thok and one case in Pamir refugee camps. Cumulatively, 32 cases recorded including 22 cases in Ajuong Thok and 10 in Pamir refugee camps in 2017.

- In Ajuong Thok refugee camp, UNHCR reunited 277 children including 135 boys and 142 girls with their biological parents. Also, UNHCR placed 347 children including 220 males and 127 females in Foster Care (Non-Relative Foster Care) arrangements since the beginning of 2017.

### **Western Equatoria**

- The Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA) has registered 102 households consisting of 297 refugee new arrivals from the Democratic of Republic of Congo (DRC) fleeing from fresh attacks by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). The refugees have reportedly fled from three locations: Mogoroko, Ngbamunga, and part of Kpanangbara. Refugees reported to the CRA that LRA rebels killed two DRC soldiers and their wives, and abducted many people and looted properties. The new arrivals are staying with refugees who had returned to the settlement in Ezo and with the host community. The CRA also noted a total population of refugees still residing in Ezo county of 966 HHs (2809 individuals) before the most recent refugee arrivals. Since fighting broke out in Ezo county in 2015, UNHCR has no access to the refugee camp in Ezo due to insecurity, with the camp officially closed in February 2016.

### **Central Equatoria**

- In Juba, UNHCR with collaboration with CRA registered 66 new arrivals including 47 asylum seekers from Eritrea and 19 prima facie refugees from Sudan's South Kordofan region. 36% of the new arrivals were female.
- In Juba, UNHCR in collaboration with CRA issued 130 asylum seekers certificates to asylum seekers and 21 ID cards issued to refugees.
- In Gorom refugee settlement, UNHCR conducted a one-day training on child rights and South Sudan's child protection laws for refugee teachers to sensitize teaching staff and better ensure a safe learning environment for refugee children.
- In Juba, UNHCR facilitated the relocation of 43 vulnerable Sudanese refugees from Juba to Ajuong Thok camp by air. These refugees were displaced from Lasu settlement due to insecurity in September 2016.
- In Juba, South Sudan Government caseworkers conducted their first refugee status determination interviews for asylum-seekers seeking protection in South Sudan, an essential step towards the establishment of South Sudan's asylum system to adjudicate applications for refugee status.

### **Jonglei**

- During the reporting period, UNHCR conducted a protection monitoring mission to Pochalla in Jonglei state. The mission monitored the protection situation and updated the refugee database with new-born babies who are in the urban center and those in Alari settlement. UNHCR registered ten new-born babies bringing the population to 2,720 refugees.

## **Identified needs and remaining gaps**

### **Central Equatoria**

- In Lasu, refugees displaced into host community villages continue to lack basic services in the hideouts due to the absence of humanitarian agencies who withdrew as a result of the deteriorated security situation on the Yei- Lasu road since September 2016.

## **Education**

### **Achievements and Impact**

#### **Upper Nile**

- In Maban county, the Department of Education released the 2016/ 2017 Primary 8/ Level 4 final exam results for Upper Nile region. The result showed that 14 out of 20 top best performers are from schools in the camps in Maban.
- In Kaya, Yusuf Batil and Gendressa refugee camps, UNHCR and partners Save the Children (SCI), and Danish Refugee Council (DRC) conducted 'back to school' mobilization campaign for 2017.
- In Maban refugee camps, the enrolment of students for year 2017/2018 started on 6 February 2017 and is ongoing. In Doro Camp, 5,650 students including 3560 boys and 2090 girls registered in the primary schools since the beginning of the enrolment.

#### **Unity**

- In Ajuong Thok and Pamir Refugee camps, schools opened for the 2017 academic year with high enrollment recorded in Pamir.

### **Western Equatoria**

- In Makpandu refugee settlement, UNHCR distributed 14 solar lanterns to 14 candidates who are preparing to sit for South Sudan secondary school certificate.
- Makpandu Primary School has enrolled 700 learners for the 2017 academic year.

## **Identified needs and remaining gaps**

## Unity

- In Pamir refugee camp, as a result of the ongoing relocation of refugees from Yida to Pamir, classrooms are congested at the Kings of Nuba Primary. The school has 12 classrooms against some 2,000 pupils. UNHCR and its partner Lutheran World Federation (LWF) are currently planning to construct more temporary classrooms to address the congestion.

## Central Equatoria

- Lack of education for the refugee and host community children in Lasu and its environs remains a serious issue, as all schools in Lasu have remained closed due to insecurity since September 2016.



## Health

### **Achievements and Impact**

#### Upper Nile

- In Kaya and Doro refugee camps, UNHCR and its partner International Medical Corps (IMC) conducted training on HIV/AIDS to refugee mothers to sensitize them on the nature of HIV/AIDS as well as prevention measures to be taken when confronted with the disease. The training equipped mothers with some basic information on HIV/AIDS.
- In Yusuf Batil refugee camp, health workers completed the Tetanus Toxoid (TT) immunization targeting 8,043 women of reproductive age as part of the government's campaign for the Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus Elimination (MNTE). The campaign is going on Kaya camp, and similar campaigns are planned for Doro and Gendrassa camps in the coming weeks.



## Food Security and Nutrition

### **Achievements and impact**

#### Unity

- In Ajuong Thok, Pamir and Yida, UNHCR operational partner the World Food Programme (WFP) commenced General Food Distribution (GFD) for February.
- In Pamir refugee camp, UNHCR partner International Rescue Committee (IRC) continued the blanket supplementary food distribution to pregnant and lactating mothers, while in Ajuong Thok, UNHCR partner Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA) undertook the same distribution.

## Central Equatoria

- In Gorom settlement, UNHCR partner WFP carried out GFD for the month of January for 2,195 refugees present at the time of distribution.

## Western Equatoria

- In Makpandu refugee settlement, UNHCR partner World Vision International (WVI) screened 102 children from the age of 6 – 59 months for Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC). The screening exercise found five moderate acute malnutrition, five acute malnutrition, and only two severe acute malnutrition. Two children with severe malnutrition were admitted to outpatient unit. WVI advised all parents on the variety of food they can give to their children.



## Shelter and NFIs

### **Achievements and Impact**

#### Unity

- In Pariang County, UNHCR progressed in the implementation of project in support of host community including the completion of the construction of Mankour Primary School; UNHCR partner Action Africa Help International (AAHI) commenced the digging of the second of three hafirs for the host community (a hafir is a local water point for keeping water for livestock), and the renovation of Governor's Office is almost to complete.

#### Upper Nile

- In Maban camps, UNHCR distributed pieces of soap to 137,000 individuals.

## Western Equatoria

- In Makpandu refugee settlement, UNHCR partner World Vision International (WVI) distributed non-food items (NFI) to 2,412 refugees registered from 2008 up to 2013 present during the distribution. NFIs included kitchen sets, blankets, mosquito nets, sleeping mats, jerry cans, buckets and solar lanterns.

## Water and Sanitation

### Achievements and impact

#### Unity

- In Ajuong Thok refugee camp, the water supply coverage stood at 18.84 liters per person per day, an improvement to the coverage in the previous reporting period and Pamir camp, water supply coverage stood at 31.55 litres per day per person.

#### Upper Nile

- In Maban camps, water supply coverage stood at a standard level of 21 liters per person per day. While the sanitation coverage stood at 12 persons per latrine in all camps.

## Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

### Achievements and impact

#### Unity

- In Ajuong Thok and Pamir Refugee camps, UNHCR in collaboration with the host community identified 200 youths for business and life skill training. This intervention aims to assist the youths become self-reliant.
- In Pamir, UNHCR partner International Rescue Committee (IRC) facilitated two meetings between the host community and refugee leaders to promote peaceful community co-existence during agricultural production.

#### Central Equatoria

- In Juba, UNHCR partner Humanitarian Development Consortium (HDC) commenced the distribution of in-kind business start-ups to 64 refugees who lost their properties in Juba as a measure to assist them to improve their existing struggling businesses for possible expansion and growth. The startups include tea shops, cookery shops, retail, charcoal trade and mobile phone recharging points.
- UNHCR partner, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) through their Emergency Response Programme provided 10,000 vegetable kits to support 8,000 IDPs and 2,000 refugees in Yei. The initial distribution of the vegetable kits has reached 3,585 beneficiaries including 925 displaced refugees. Vegetable kits include okra, onions, amaranthus, collard, carrot, eggplant, tomato and watering can.

## IDP RESPONSE

## Protection

### *COORDINATION*

### Achievements and impact

#### Unity

- In Bentiu and Rubkona towns, UNHCR and cluster partners Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and UNICEF conducted a protection assessment to identify vulnerable cases for proper and timely humanitarian intervention. The joint assessment identified 69 households (301 individuals) who need material support. Also, UNICEF identified seven separated children aged between 2-12 years.

#### Upper Nile

- In Malakal, UNHCR participated in the International Organisation for Migration (IOM)'s verification within the Protection of Civilian (POC) site by assisting Persons with Special Needs (PSNs) and conducting protection verification. The verification exercise started on 15th February and is expected to last for next three weeks.

## OPERATIONS

### Upper Nile

- In Malakal, UNHCR completed the verification of 299 IDPs from Thuweji and Doro villages following the 2016 December conflict in Maban. UNHCR plans to support the population with non-food items (NFIs) relief.

### Central Equatoria

- In Yei town, UNHCR partner UMCOR recorded seven cases of Sexual Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) reportedly by IDPs including cases of domestic violence. All victims were supported with medical care and psychosocial counseling. As a result of the general insecurity in Yei, access to legal support is difficult.
- In Yei, UNHCR partner recorded and verified 192 new arrivals of IDPs displaced from Logo, Jonsuk, Kegulu, Minyori, Pakula, Mapoko and Kabegere villages. Also, 1,500 IDPs comprising of 343 households displaced from Atende area have also been reported by the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) pending verification. IDPs cited general insecurity including the burning of houses, looting, lack of services and hunger as their reason for fleeing. Immediate needs include food and NFIs – UNHCR and other humanitarian actors in Yei will discuss these needs in the upcoming Humanitarian Coordination Forum and NFIs cluster, after that conduct verification and respond appropriately.



### Shelter and NFIs

## Achievements and impact

### Upper Nile

- In Malakal, UNHCR in coordination with its partner Humanitarian Development Consortium (HDC) verified and distributed non-food items (NFIs) to 396 IDPs at Yabus river bank and Hai Istifta from Doro and Thuweji Bomas following the conflict between the refugees and host community in December 2016. Items included plastic sheets, blankets, buckets, sleeping mats, mosquito nets and cooking sets.

### Jonglei

- In Mingkaman, UNHCR partner Humanitarian Consortium (HDC) refurbished 200 shelters in all IDP sites for extremely vulnerable households of different vulnerability categories. The beneficiaries included female-headed households, elderly and those with disabilities.



### Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

## Achievements and Impact

- In Yei town, UNHCR partner UMCOR completed the distribution of assorted vegetable seeds and rake to 8,000 IDPs and host community in all nine IDP centers. Seeds and rakes provided by the United Nations Food Agriculture Organisation (FAO) will enable both IDPs and host communities to undertake vegetable production to reduce food insecurity and malnutrition cases.



### Camp Coordination and Camp Management

## Achievements and Impact

- In Bentiu, Communication with the community (CWC): UNHCR-led Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) cluster organized a meeting between the Bentiu community leaders, Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) and other humanitarian actors providing services in the town. The meeting provided feedback from the community to improve service delivery in Bentiu and Rubkona towns.
- In Bentiu, UNHCR CCCM cluster partner INTERNEWS in collaboration with Mercy Corps & CARE International distributed 414 radio sets to women support groups and hygiene promoters. The solar radios will promote access to information to the community.
- In Bentiu, UNHCR participated in a one-day coordination workshop by OCHA for the clusters' members. The workshop focused on strengthening the roles and responsibilities of the coordination mechanisms.

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to USD 89,773,301 for the financial year 2016. 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 programs with earmarked and broadly earmarked funds. UNHCR's comprehensive needs for 2017 amount to \$172 million, with most priority needs of \$125 million. UNHCR will report on 2017 contributions upon close of accounts for 2016 in the first quarter of 2017.

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**Links:**

[South Sudan Situation Regional Portal](#)

[UNHCR South Sudan Facebook page](#)

[Einstein scholarships bring hope to refugee students in South Sudan](#)

[UNHCR News Story: New 'Protection Desks' give expert help to South Sudan's vulnerable](#)

[UNHCR News Story: 100,000 fearful civilians trapped in South Sudan town](#)

[UNHCR Briefing Note: UNHCR sounds warning alarms over situation in South Sudan's Yei](#)