

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

EMERGENCY UPDATE ON THE SOUTH SUDAN REFUGEE SITUATION

27 February – 5 March 2017

KEY FIGURES

71,529

South Sudanese Refugees registered
in DRC (as of 28 Feb 2017)

16,455

Of these refugees living at Meri site
(as of 28 Feb 2017)

1,654

Of these refugees living at Biringi
site (as of 28 Feb 2017)

FUNDING

USD 31 mio.

requested for the operation



PRIORITIES

- Transfer refugees to sites and identify new sites.
- Support self-reliance and access to basic services at refugee sites.
- Maintain the humanitarian and civilian character of asylum.
- Integrate refugee children into DRC's national education system.
- Find solutions for unaccompanied children.

HIGHLIGHTS

- During the reporting period, 259 households of 880 South Sudanese refugees arrived from border areas of Ima, Kurukwata, Lasu and Lagabe at Meri site (Faradje territory, Haut-Uélé province) according to pre-screening by the National Commission for Refugees (CNR).
- Upon arrival, they passed a medical screening with the partner ADES and were assisted in food and shelter by the partner ADSSE.
- During the reporting period, 104 households of 317 south Sudanese refugees were registered with biometrics at Meri site.
- Ten new hangars were set up at Meri site to host new arrivals with a capacity of 500 people.
- Agricultural activities benefitting refugees and locals at Meri site made progress: 35 ha of plots were allocated to 13 mixed farming groups and 16 groups received seeds and tools.



South Sudanese refugees climb from a UNHCR truck at the arrival of the relocation convoy at Meri from border areas. © UNHCR/ D. Madi

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational context

- The security situation remained volatile in the territory of Dungu.

Protection

Achievements and Impact

- On 27 February, military authorities of Aba, together with the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) and UNHCR, held an awareness-raising session for the refugee leaders of Meri site (refugee committee, block leaders, customary and religious leaders, etc.) about the response in case of infiltration of combatants into refugee sites.
- Two refugees detained at the police station in Aba were released following legal follow-up and advocacy by CNR.
- 302 people with specific needs received food and non-food items (clothes, shoes and soap) at Biringi site during the reporting period.
- The partner INTERSOS held an awareness-raising session at Kurukwata, Ima, PK 18 on the rights and obligations of refugees during their stay in the DR Congo and peaceful coexistence with 580 participants, among whom 325 women.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- From the beginning of the year, 30 cases of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) have been recorded in Meri site and 19 in Biringi site. The awareness on SGBV issues need to be increased among both refugees and locals in order to reduce incidents related to it.

Education

Achievements and Impact

- **Aru territory** – 129 children were enrolled in French language classes at Biringi site during the reporting period. The number of children attending French classes decreased because many parents preferred to send their children at informal classes given in English by refugees at the site.
- A total number of 283 children who attended languages classes and are now ready to integrate schools.
- **Faradje Territory** – During the reporting period, 453 children (among whom 219 girls) attended French-learning classes at Meri.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Faradje Territory** - Four additional classrooms with desks are needed for the language classes as well as 4 additional teachers, latrines and rooms for teachers at Meri site.
- 777 refugee children at Meri site are currently not supported with school fees payment. For 2017, UNHCR anticipates that it will be able to support 360 pupils. Therefore, a gap of 417 pupils will persist.
- 36 refugee children enrolled in primary school in Biringi did not receive school kits.

Health

Achievements and Impact

- **Aru territory** – 53 refugees underwent medical screening at the transit center of Aru among whom 17 sick people who received appropriate medical care from ADES.
- Nine children were vaccinated against poliomyelitis at the transit center of Aru.

- 22 children aged between 0 and 59 months received vitamin A and anti-worms treatment at the transit center of Aru.
- The medical partner ADES ensured medical follow-up of 27 patients hospitalized at Biringi and Aru General Hospitals and at the Anglican health center of Aru.
- Eight people living with HIV were identified during medical screening. In total, 21 people living with HIV have been identified at Biringi since the beginning of the relocation in November 2016 and they receive appropriate treatment.
- **Dungu territory** - ADSSE ensured the social assistance, follow up and referral of 101 sick people in Dungu and Doruma.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Lack of specialty drugs for the treatment of chronic diseases, including mental illness.
- Lack of some antigens for routine vaccination against tuberculosis, measles and yellow fever.



Food Security and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

- **Aru territory** – 37 newly arrived children underwent nutritional screening during the reporting period and five cases of malnutrition were detected. A total of 37 malnourished people were admitted to the nutritional program at Biringi since January 2017.
- 3,890 hot meals were distributed to 555 sick refugees, refugee prisoners, persons with specific needs and new arrivals in Aru and Biringi.
- **Faradje territory** – 60 newly-arrived children underwent nutritional screening at Meri during the reporting period and 14 cases of malnutrition were detected. 152 children have successfully completed the program and 40 children who were suffering from severe malnutrition improved their status to moderate malnutrition. A total of 385 malnourished people were enrolled in the nutritional program at Meri.
- During the reporting period, 10,706 packs of WFP high-energy biscuits were distributed by AIRD to 1,735 people who arrived at Meri site.
- 1,182 hot meals were distributed to 3,115 sick refugees, refugee prisoners, persons with specific needs and new arrivals at Meri.



Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact

- Some 18 liters per person per day of drinking water were provided through eight water points at Biringi. The water points benefitted both refugees and the host community surrounding the site.
- 190 latrines and community showers were operational at Biringi.



Shelter and NFIs

- Ten new hangars were set up at Meri site to host new arrivals with a capacity of 500 people.



Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

Achievements and Impact

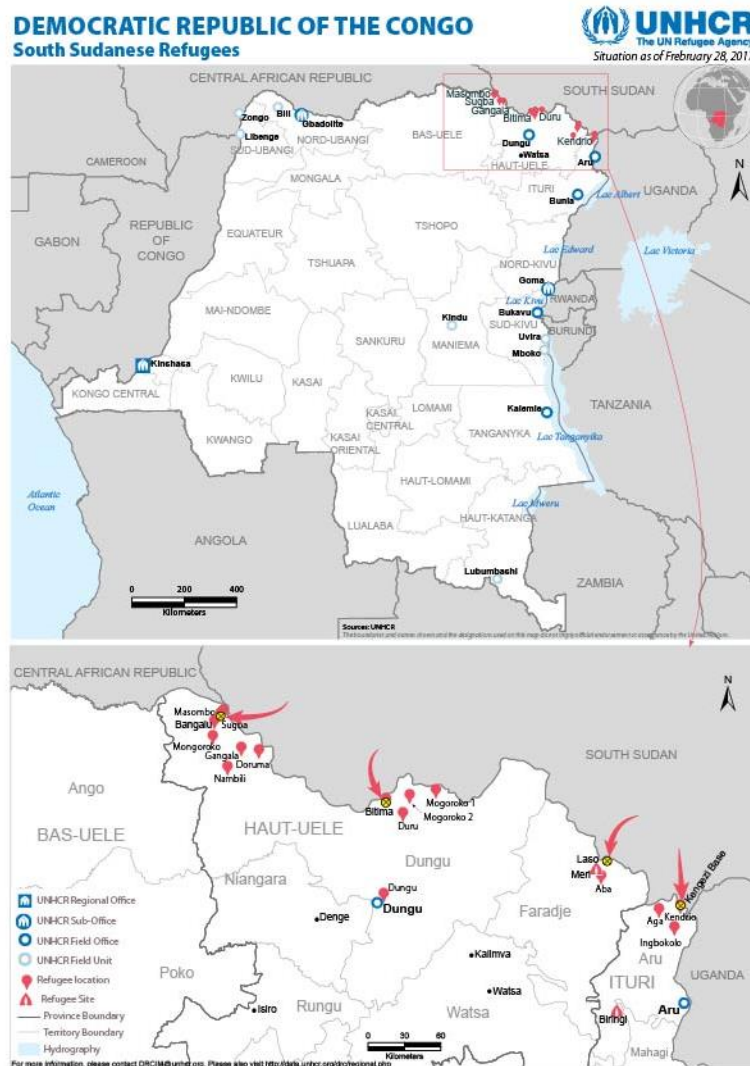
- **Faradje territory** – An area of 35 ha was delimited and plot distributed to 13 farming groups (made up of refugees and locals).
- 16 agricultural groups for vegetable gardens received seeds and tools.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Other 9 agricultural groups need to be supported.

Working in partnership

- UNHCR coordinates its assistance with a variety of humanitarian actors, working together to ensure refugees benefit from dignified and efficient protection mechanisms.
- For this operation, UNHCR partners are: AIRD, CNR, ADES, ADSSE and INTERSOS. Other partners include FAO, WFP (with its partner TSF) and MALTESER.



Donors for the South Sudanese refugee response in DRC in 2017

United States of America (3.1 M) | Belgium (0.3 M)

Other donors for UNHCR's programmes in DRC in 2017

Japan (2.5 M) | UN Fund for Intl Partnerships (0.2 M) | Vodafone Foundation (0.05 M) | Private Donors Spain (0.06 M)

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