

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

EMERGENCY UPDATE ON THE SOUTH SOUDAN REFUGEE SITUATION

6 – 12 March 2017

KEY FIGURES

71,529

South Soudan 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, 276 households of 857 South Sudanese refugees were pre-screened and registered with biometrics at Meri site.
- In Meri site, due to the continued arrivals, there was a shortage of individual shelters as the site was designed to host max 15,000 refugees. Also, there is no water storage system and water systems used so far are becoming insufficient.
- Ongoing arrivals from South Sudan were observed in border localities of Ima, Kurukwata, Lagabe, PK 18 and Mola by protection monitors. Refugees mentioned destruction of fields, burning of houses, fear to be killed by members of other ethnic groups as reasons for flight.
- On March 10th, CNR organised the first convoy from the border locality of Kurukwata to Meri site with 59 south Sudanese refugees. This is the locality where most of the refugee arrivals, therefore there is need to have some transit infrastructure like hangars and latrines.
- International Women's Day was celebrated in sites hosting south Sudanese refugees. Discussions with women and young groups were organized as well as sport activities like a football match between women refugees and women from host community. Moreover, sensitisations against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence were carried out in focus groups.



Refugee arriving in Meri site from border with South Soudan @UNHCR

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational context

- The security situation remained calm in the area of Aba (Meri site). Arrivals from South Sudan were observed in border localities of Ima, Kurukwata, Lagabe, PK 18 and Mola.

Protection

Achievements and Impact

- 12 refugees were questioned by the police about an incident of robbery with violence occurred on 8th March during the celebration of International Women's Day. One suspect was detained. CNR was following up the case.
- Protection monitoring partner INTERSOS visited refugees imprisoned in Aba. The living conditions in the prison were reported to be very difficult. Four refugees' prisoners beaten and wounded found without any medical assistance received healthcare from medical partner ADES.
- Social agents compiled a list of 50 vulnerable households in need of transitional shelters.
- Refugees who arrived in the city of Dungu faced lack of shelter in hosting families.
- 51 unaccompanied children were identified and followed in Nambili (Doruma), some of them still need to be placed in foster families. After intervention of ADSSE agents, two brothers were placed in a foster family and the process is ongoing for the others. During visits, social agents recorded many children in need of shoes, soap, sanitary napkins and other non-food items.
- Social partner ADSSE organized a meeting with 62 youngsters of Nambili site to promote sport and recreational activities. A committee was setup to start with the organization.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Persons with specific needs in Biringi need clothes and shelters.

Education

Achievements and Impact

- **Aru territory** – in Biringi site 529 children in school age were identified by social partner ADSSE. 120 of them are currently attending school and 117 of them are attending language classes to prepare themselves to integrate Congolese schools. Despite sensitization about enrollment of children in local schools, many parents do not want to their children to study in French and under the Congolese curriculum.
- 120 school uniforms were distributed to refugee students in Biringi.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In Dungu, 455 refugee students lack support for education.

Health

Achievements and Impact

- Protection monitoring partner INTERSOS visited Aba General Hospital and Nyalanya Health Center to assess the living conditions of hospitalized refugees. The structures were found underequipped (lack of beds, lack of drugs).
- **Aru territory** – 15 refugees underwent medical screening at the transit center of Aru among whom 14 sick people who received appropriate medical care from ADES. The most frequent diseases are malaria and respiratory infections.

- 4 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 16 patients hospitalized at Biringi and Aru General Hospitals and at the Anglican health center of Aru.
- **Faradje territory** – 516 medical consultations were carried out during the week. The most frequent diseases are malaria and respiratory infections.
- Since the beginning of 2017, 85 deliveries were carried out in safety.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Sensitization on correct use of mosquito net need to be strengthened, the *Reseaux Communautaires (RECO)* need to play a role in this.
- Lack of baby kits for refugees living in Dungu territory.



Food Security and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

- **Faradje territory** – 111 children underwent nutritional screening. Among them, 3 cases of severe malnutrition and 22 cases of moderate malnutrition were detected and enrolled in the nutrition program. In total, 513 patients are following the nutrition program, most of them are children.



Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact

- **Meri site** - During the week, 77 new latrines and 72 showers were built for the new hangars (common dorms). NGO Malteser completed 30 latrine blocks for the old hangars. 1,052 latrines are currently operational on the site.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In Biringi, since the setup of the site, 74 latrines were destroyed by unknown perpetrators.
- No water access in schools frequented by refugees in Dungu territory.



Shelter and NFIs

- 18 households in Biringi were assisted in the construction of their shelter by social partner ADSSE.
- 400 emergency shelter kits were being prepared by logistic partner AIRD for 200 households of Meri site and 200 households of Biringi site.
- Five new hangars were built at Meri site. In total, 15 new hangars were built in the last two weeks.
- 13 elderly people living in Dungu were assisted by partner ADSSE with NFIs (shoes, soap, etc.).



Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

Achievements and Impact

- CNR and UNHCR supported partner ADSSE in the distribution of agricultural tools for 200 people among refugees and host community in Aba (Meri site).
- 80 refugee households of Biringi site received agricultural tools.
- In Biringi, 257 plots for agriculture have been distributed so far. Refugees asked for plastic sheeting to build huts close to the plots as they are located away from the refugee site.
- In Doruma, 48 members of agricultural groups took part in a training on farming techniques for peanuts and rice with the support of CNR, FAO and competent local authorities.

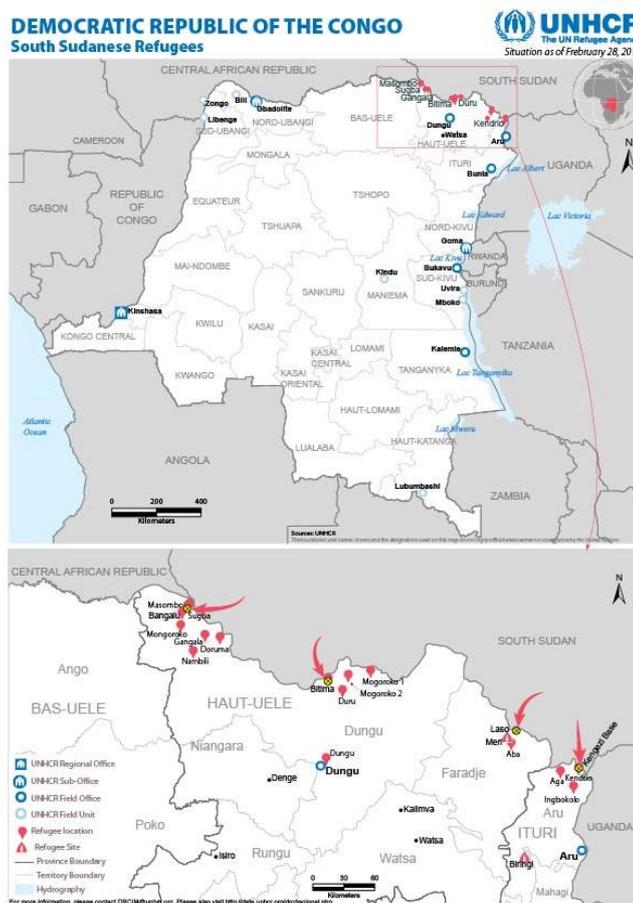
- 15 households in Duru and Bitima (Dungu territory) received agricultural tools.
- 268 household were supported in the preparation of the fields for the cultivation of peanuts, rice and black eyed peas on 30 ha available in Dungu territory.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- 177 kits of agricultural tools are needed in Biringi.

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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