

KEY FIGURES

72,832

South Soudan Refugees registered in DRC (as of 19 March 2017)

17,696

Of these refugees living at Meri site (as of 19 March 2017)

1,716

Of these refugees living at Biringi site (as of 19 March 2017)

FUNDING

USD 31 mio.

requested for the operation



PRIORITIES

- Need to provide additional family shelters.
- 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.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

EMERGENCY UPDATE ON THE SOUTH SOUDAN REFUGEE SITUATION

13 – 19 March 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

- During the reporting period, 217 households of 702 people arrived at Meri site in Faradje Territory, Haut-Uélé province, according to the pre-screening of the National Commission for Refugees (CNR). They were hosted in group shelters and assisted with hot meals and WFP high-energy biscuits. They passed a medical screening with UNHCR medical partner ADES.
- During interviews, refugees reported to flee South Sudan because of the conflict, including arbitrary executions of civilians, numerous human rights abuses and looting.
- Needs in terms of shelter, food and non-food items, water and sanitation are on the rise on Meri site, and UNHCR can with limited resources not respond to the needs adequately. Since the beginning of the influx, 1,147 individual shelters were built, while the other refugees are hosted in hangars. To accommodate the current influx of new arrivals, the construction of 3 hangars or 150 individual shelters per week is required.
- 360 refugee pupils at Meri site were assisted with payment of school fees. In total, 972 children were assisted so far out of 1,347 refugee pupils attending primary schools (i.e. following the DRC curriculum) surrounding the site.
- 9,082 packages of WFP high-energy biscuits were distributed to 2,185 new arrivals in Meri site (arrived from 4 to 16 March 2017).



Refugees arriving in Meri site from border with South Sudan @UNHCR/A. Savadogo

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Protection

Achievements and Impact

- In Meri site, 1,067 people among whom 260 women, 351 men, 144 boys, 243 girls and 69 older people were sensitized by UNHCR's partner ADSSE on the notions of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), particularly on the physical and sexual assault and denial of resources.
- During the reporting period, one case of forced marriage and two cases of sexual assault were reported at Biringi site by the social partner ADSSE. The persons concerned received medical assistance from medical partner ADES and psychological support from social partner ADSSE.
- During the reporting period, a reduction in the number of SGBV incidents in Meri site over the last weeks. This could be explained by the fact that the sensitization activities carried out had a positive impact.
- 51 people with specific needs were identified in Meri during social screening.
- The Swiss government has deployed a Protection expert with a focus on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) /Child Protection to UNHCR Aru Office who will support protection activities for the next four months.

Education

Achievements and Impact

- Distribution of 120 school kits available for refugee children in Biringi started this week.
- 360 refugee pupils at Meri site were assisted with payment of school fees. In total, 972 children were assisted so far out of 1,347 refugee pupils attending primary schools (i.e. following the DRC curriculum) surrounding the site.

Health

Achievements and Impact

- **Aru territory** – 84 school-age children underwent pre-school medical consultations at Biringi site provided by medical partner ADES.
- Social partner ADSSE ensured the medical follow-up of 20 patients in different medical structures of Aru and Biringi and at the Transit Centre of Aru during relocation.
- **Faradje territory** – ADES ensured the medical follow-up of 137 patients at Aba General Hospital.
- During the reporting period, ADES donated to the Nyalanya and Aba Health Centers and to Aba General Hospital 6 boxes of condoms, 1 box of obstetric material, 6 boxes of drugs against sexually transmitted infections, 3 boxes of PEP kits and 12 boxes of safe delivery kits.
- ADES ensured the medical care of 459 patients. The most frequent diseases are malaria and respiratory infections.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Lack of means of transportation for the proper follow-up of patients in health facilities and for health-related community activities.

Food Security and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

- 164 new arrivals and people with specific needs received hot meals in Biringi site, as well as 125 people in Aru Transit Center.
- **Faradje territory** – eight children underwent nutritional screening in Aba and three cases of acute malnutrition were detected. They were automatically been enrolled in the nutritional program.
- 9,082 packages of WFP high-energy biscuits were distributed to 2,185 new arrivals in Meri site (arrived from 4 to 16 March 2017).
- 3,356 hot meals were distributed to 1,006 people in Meri site among whom new arrivals, vulnerable people, sick people and prisoners detained in nearby city of Aba.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps



Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact

- **Biringi site** – During the reporting period, some 18 liters of water per person and per day were provided to refugees and the host community.
- 126 latrines and community showers were functional at the site.
- **Meri site** – During the reporting period, some 18 liters of water per person and per day were distributed to 17,843 people living in the site. 15 water sources built by ADES and 8 built by Malteser were operational.
- 1,052 latrines were operational on the site during the reporting period.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Refugees have difficulties to obtain straws, sticks and reed for the construction of family latrines.
- In Meri site, due to increasing number of arrivals, water supply system need to be reinforced as refugee wait up to 1h30 in line to collect water.



Shelter and NFIs

- In Biringi site, 32 shelters for vulnerable households were under construction out of 50 planned.
- Partner AIRD distributed 9 shelter kits and respective land plots in Meri site.



Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

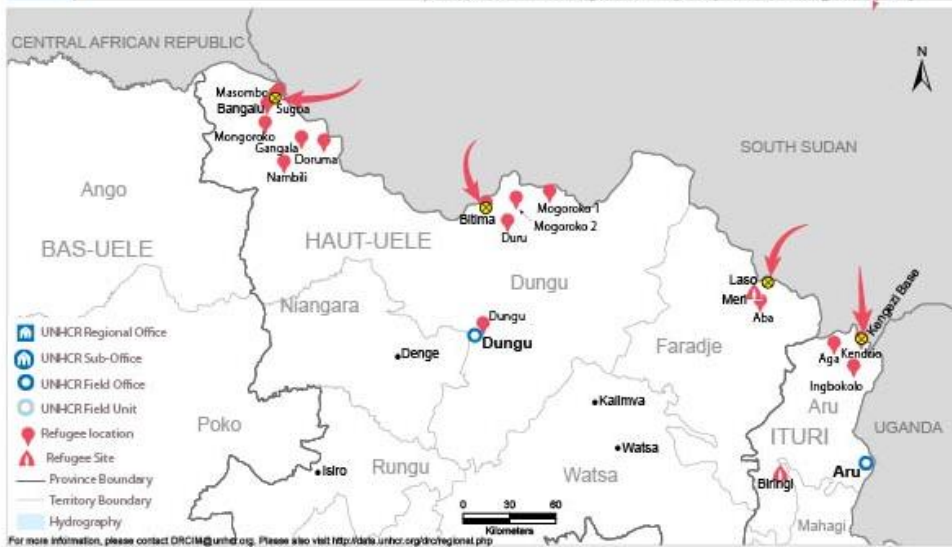
Achievements and Impact

- Seeds (two tons of peanuts, 900 kg of rice and 730 kg of corn) were distributed to 300 households living in Doruma and Duru-Bitima (Dungu territory, Haut – Uele province) to help them starting the first cultural season for 2017.
- 108 households in Doruma received agricultural tools.

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, MALTESER, TROCAIRE and WFP (with its partner TSF).

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO South Sudanese Refugees



Donors for the South Sudanese refugee response in DRC in 2017

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

Donors for UNHCR's programmes in DRC operations 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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