

INSIDE SOUTH SUDAN

265,921

Refugees in South Sudan

1.9 M

IDPs in South Sudan, including
214,979 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

1,682,430

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

- Uganda: 805,704
- Ethiopia: 356,779
- Sudan: 351,048
- Kenya: 94,428
- DRC: 72,832
- CAR: 1,639

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 06/2017

15-31 March 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

- **UNHCR issues ID cards and proof of registration certificates to asylum seekers and refugees:** In Juba, UNHCR issued 160 documents consisting of 113 Asylum Seekers Certificates, 25 ID cards and 22 Proof of Registration documents to asylum seekers and refugees in Juba respectively. Furthermore, UNHCR renewed 41 ID cards in Gorom refugee settlement.
- **UNHCR enrolls refugees into the Biometrics Identity Management System:** In Juba, UNHCR enrolled 122 persons into the Biometrics Identity Management System (BIMS) during the reporting period as part of the continuous registration activities. BIMS is a multi-modular biometric system that allows the capture of 10 fingers and two iris scans, in addition to the picture, providing support to the operation in preserving and protection of identities, thus strengthening the provision of protection services such as assistance to refugees and other persons of concern to UNHCR.
- **UNHCR trains community protection team in Gorom.** In Gorom refugee settlement, from 30 to 31 March, UNHCR facilitated a two-day information session to 14 members of community protection team. The training focused on Sexual Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and child protection including life skills which are critical for the identification and referral of SGBV and child protection cases in the camp.
- **Relocation of Yida refugees and new arrivals continues:** During the reporting period, UNHCR relocated 402 refugees including 32 refugees previously settled in Yida and 370 new arrivals to Pamir. Cumulatively, Pamir is now home to 9,792 refugees since opening in September 2016.
- **Displaced Maban Refugees Move to Extension Site:** In Doro refugee camp, UNHCR and its partners in coordination with the Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA) relocated 1,252 individuals/243 households of 8,000 refugees affected by December 2016 conflict between refugees and host communities to new extension site. Each household is provided a standard plot of 15 x 20 meters size which is adequate for both backyard gardening and shelter and sanitation needs of households.
- **UNHCR distributes relief items to IDPs in Lakes:** In Yirol East, UNHCR distributed core relief items to 496 households (1,984 individual IDPs). Items included; blankets, jerry cans, sleeping mats, mosquito nets, kitchen sets, and soap. These IDPs fled from Unity's Leer, Mayendit and Panijar counties due to conflict and famine in late February this year.

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

- **\$10,000 permit fee for Aid Workers in South Sudan Put on Hold** – The Government of South Sudan has put on hold the proposed increase of fees for work permits from \$100 to \$10,000 as announced in early March. Finance Minister Stephen Dhieu Dau noted that “the ministry of finance acknowledges these significant issues... and steps are being taken to formulate the best way forward”. Parliament will however review the proposed increase, and may institute raised fees at a later date pending further discussions. The Government announced the increase among an array of additional taxes and fees a few weeks ago. It caused significant concern among UN agencies, humanitarian organisations and other agencies which require skilled foreign labour from neighbouring countries for their operations.
- **President of South Sudan Accepts Unilateral Ceasefire; Troika Welcomes Initiative:** Following the conclusion of the 30th Extraordinary Summit of the IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and the Government of South Sudan on 25 March in Kenya, the chairperson for the African Union Commission (AUC) Moussa Faki Mahamat announced that “the President of South Sudan assured the AUC Chairperson that he accepted to proclaim unilaterally a ceasefire and grant general amnesty to promote participation in the National Dialogue, which he equally accepted to be inclusive and led by an independent and respective personality”. Mr Mahamat also undertook a two day mission to South Sudan, which included a visit to Ganyel in famine hit Southern Unity state. In a statement released on 30 March, the Governments of Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States (the Troika) welcomed the move, underlining that “the dire humanitarian crisis in South Sudan is the direct result of the conflict and demands that all parties cease violence against humanitarian workers and obstruction of humanitarian assistance. Military offensives and the obstruction of lifesaving assistance must stop immediately in order to end the suffering and severe food shortages inflicted upon millions across South Sudan.” They also urged support for the deployment of the Regional Protection Force and encouraged further progress by the AU toward the rapid establishment of the Hybrid Court for South Sudan.
- **Six aid workers killed along Juba-Pibor road** — On Saturday 25 March, six aid workers were killed in an ambush along the Juba-Pibor road in South Sudan. Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) Mr. David Shearer has urged the government to carry an investigation. The bodies of the slain aid workers were found on the road by other members of the convoy who were some way behind. “The United Nations condemns this appalling and pointless loss of life,” Shearer said. “This cold-blooded killing is utterly reprehensible, not least, because these aid workers were dedicated to alleviating the ongoing suffering of the people of South Sudan. At least 80 aid workers have been killed so far in the country since its civil war began in December 2013. “This is an indication that the country is one of the most dangerous places in the world in which to be a humanitarian worker,” said Shearer. The head of the UN mission in South Sudan urged the government to investigate the incident and apprehend the offenders.
- **Yei government signs peace deal with armed group in Kampala** — The State Government of Yei River reached a peace deal with an armed group affiliated to Sudan People’s Liberation Movement in Opposition (SPLM-IO) led by former first vice president Riek Machar in Uganda’s capital, Kampala on 6 March. The deal was brokered by Evangelical Presbyterian Bishop Elias Taban with support from the US-based organization His Voice Global. According to the Bishop, the armed group which is based in Morobo and the state government agreed to bring about peace and stability through dialogue so as to end the ongoing war and pave the way for development in the state. “We are South Sudanese and it is a shame for us when we agreed to separate from the Khartoum government in 2011. However, we have agreed with both the state government and the armed opposition group that it is useless to continue fighting, but lay down the arms because they have seen the suffering of our people in the camps,” he said. However, SPLM-IO have distanced themselves from armed rebel groups that signed the peace deal with the Juba government in Kampala. Paul Gabriel Lam, a rebel deputy spokesman was quoted by the local media as saying the groups that meet in Uganda’s capital were individual of refugees status who fled to Uganda and denied they had connection with the main armed opposition faction allied to ex-First Vice President Riek Machar. “It’s unfortunate that refugees in Uganda have become targets of Juba regime to help further the current war in South Sudan. This is a new tactic that the government of Juba is used to strengthen its depleting forces

REFUGEE RESPONSE



Achievements and impact

Upper Nile

- In Doro refugee camp, UNHCR and its partners in coordination with the Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA) relocated 1,252 individuals/243 households of 8,000 refugees affected by December 2016 conflict between refugees and host communities to new

extension site. Each household is provided a standard plot of 15 x 20 meters size which is adequate for both backyard gardening and shelter and sanitation needs of households.

- In Bunj, UNHCR and partner the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) organized a one-day training on access to justice and the rule of law for targeting community leaders from Bunj and Doro focusing on ways to improve access to justice for all, regardless of social background or wealth. The training addressed challenges such as difficulties to access justice because of court closures and increased court fees. The training's topics included: types of courts, roles of UNHCR and CRA, Local Government Act, Human Rights, Child Rights, and Women's Rights.

Central Equatoria

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Unity

- In Ajuong Thok refugee camp, UNHCR organized a one-day meeting for the Child Protection (CP) Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) working group partners. The meeting focused on strengthening SGBV awareness raising, Child Protection, and Education mechanisms as a way of mainstreaming these thematic areas in the refugee program. The meeting concluded with key action points on the way forward for child protection and SGBV related interventions for our persons of concern.
- In Ajuong Thok refugee camp, to promote refugee access to justice, UNHCR in collaboration with the Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA) organized a training on Human Rights, SGBV basic principles and civil proceedings for 16 participants (12 M, 4F) from the Conflict Resolution Committee (CRC) of Pamir and Ajuong Thok Refugee camps as well as the police. Out of the 16 participants, four were from the police service. The female participants were all members of the CRC. The training provided a forum for discussions between the Police and the CRC on the best mechanisms for coordinating activities to improve the access to justice in an environment that is challenged with the lack of access to formal justice.
- In Pamir refugee camp, UNHCR commenced the issuance of refugee identity cards for 123 refugees. The exercise will continue to cover all eligible refugees in Pamir camp.
- UNHCR registered 615 new arrivals to South Sudan through Yida settlement. Cumulatively, 3,782 new arrivals have been registered since the beginning of the year 2017.
- During the reporting period, UNHCR relocated 402 refugees including 32 refugees previously settled in Yida and 370 new arrivals to Pamir. Cumulatively, Pamir is now home to 9,792 refugees since opening in September 2016.

Identified needs and remaining gaps

Central Equatoria

- In Yei, the situation in five locations of refugee hideout in Lasu Payam is reported to be calm, information from the refugee leaders in Yei and those in Lasu indicate that a number of refugees from the Democratic of Congo (DRC) are returning to Lasu and settling in their farmlands to harvest or to do land preparation for planting. These refugees reported that the situation in DRC is not good due to lack of services and food. It was reported that movement between DRC and Lasu is free and the market at Lasu Payam and Mitika are operational. However, the absence of humanitarian agencies who withdrew as a result of deteriorated security situations on Yei- Lasu road does not permit humanitarian assistance to these refugees.

Education

Achievements and Impact

Upper Nile

- In Yusuf Batil and Gendressa refugee camps, UNHCR and its partner Lutheran World Federation (LWF) distributed 1,816 textbooks to Alternative Learning Programme (ALP) and Primary schools. While adolescent girls received underwear.

Food Security and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

Western Equatoria

- In Makpandu refugee settlement, UNHCR partner World Vision International on behalf of World Food Programme (WFP) conducted General Food Distribution(GFD) to all refugees for the month of March. The 70% food basket consisted of sorghum, pulses and cooking oil. Other food items will be available in the April during the GFD of April.

Upper Nile

- In Maban camps, WFP conducted GFD for March. The 70% food basket consisted; pulses and cooking oil.
- In Bunj, the final nutrition survey report was released, and the Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) prevalence were 12.5 %, 9.6 %, 7.5 % and 12.5 % in Doro, Batil, Gendrassa and Kaya respectively. Doro and Kaya camps have the highest rates followed by Yusuf Batil and Gendrassa though within UNHCR camps threshold standards (<10%). As compared to 2015, there have been minor improvements in Doro, Gendrassa and Yusuf Batil camps and a slight deterioration in Kaya camp. However, there is no camp in a critical situation, and the results showed that interventions would curb further deterioration of the situation, but more efforts need to be made for further improvements.

Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

Central Equatorial

- In Gorom refugee settlement, UNHCR in coordination with ACROSS distributed sandals to 65 Persons with Special Needs) PSNs (20 male and 45 females) following vulnerability assessment and verification conducted in early February this year.

Water and Sanitation

Achievements and impact

Upper Nile

- In Kaya refugee camp, UNHCR and partner ACTED completed the installation of the perimeter chain link fence of Kaya primary storage site; this provides extra protection against vandalism and theft at the facility.
- In Doro camp extension, the minimum supply of water stands at 18 litres per person per day during the reporting period. Furthermore, 15 communal latrines have been erected to reduce in the cases of open defecation.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

Achievements and impact

Unity

- In Ajuong Thok Refugee Camp, UNHCR extended material support in the form of Income Generating Activities (IGA) to 25 male foster parents. The focus was on male foster parents to keep balance and gender equity with the female foster parents' group that had been provided with a similar kind of support in the past.

Upper Nile

- In Bunj, a joint team comprising host and refugee community representatives conducted an outreach visit to the host community in Pekaji village to sensitize the population on the need for improved relations and peaceful coexistence between the two communities and shared access to natural resources.
- In Bunj, UNHCR and its partners conducted a peace building and conflict mitigation dialogue, an initiative to resuscitate the Joint Peace Committee (JPC) comprising the host and refugee representatives for North East Maban County under the Payam Administrator of Khor Alhamar Payam and as a confidence and trust building for more engagement and involvement with the joint peace committee to promote peace amongst the two communities. The members of the joint peace committee recommended for peace tours and peace dialogues and capitalizing on the best practices and lessons learned in the promotion of peace amongst the host and refugee communities.

- In Maban camps, UNHCR and its partners Relief International (RI) and ACTED verified and registered 8,167 refugees for targeted seeds distribution. These seeds will improve the household (HH) food production in 2017. Also, 1000 HHs from the host community will benefit from the agricultural seeds distribution.
- In Kaya and Gendressa camps, UNHCR and partner ACTED mobilized and established 10 out of 20 targeted for 2017 VSLA groups. While in Doro and Yusuf Batil camps, RI established 13 Voluntary Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) groups. These groups act as platforms for improving household incomes through local savings and loaning approach to improve the culture of savings and investments.
- In Bunj, UNHCR and its partner RI disbursed in-kind grants to five tea shop entrepreneurs and seven restaurant businesses. The in-kind grants for the tea shops entrepreneurs included; plastic chairs, sugar bowls, kettles, spoons, plastic jugs, metallic cups, tables, tea spices, sugar, saucepans, jerry cans and food stuff including beans, lentils and cooking oil.
- In Doro and Yusuf Batil camps, UNHCR and partner RI facilitated the establishment of seven women's gardening groups. The women's groups will receive training on vegetable production to increase access to a nutritious set of vegetables in their diets.

IDP RESPONSE



COORDINATION

Achievements and impact

Upper Nile

- In Maban, UNHCR partner Humanitarian Development Consortium (HDC) conducted protection monitoring at a village in the vicinity of Doro camp to assess the potential returns of the affected host community following the December 2016 conflict between the refugees and host community in Maban. 31 households/153 individuals mostly women and children have returned, and their major concerns are food and shelters. The return host community population are worried about the rainy season as they do not have shelters. UNHCR and cluster partners will work jointly address these gaps.
- During the reporting period, UNHCR partner ADRA conducted population movement tracking monitoring in different Bomas of Maker Payam, Nassir County. Based on interviews with chiefs and host community members and IDPs in different locations, 18 – 20 households comprising mostly women and children are crossing daily into Ethiopia through Pagak and Buri Abeyi. The main reasons for crossing to Ethiopia are due to the ongoing fighting and insecurity and hunger or famine and food insecurity.
- During the reporting period, UNHCR partner, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) conducted a protection mission to Renk County to identify persons with special needs (PSNs) as a follow-up of the fact-finding mission conducted in Renk in February 2017. DRC noted few population in Wadakona, thus most of the population could have fled to Sudan. DRC identified and supported 250 PSNs in Payuer and Abayok through the house to house visits and household visit with the support of block leaders respectively.

Unity

- In Bentiu's protection of civilian (POC) site, UNHCR continued its counseling and outreach activities during the reporting period. 54 complains of old collapsed shelters have been raised by the IDPs through UNHCR Protection Desk. The cases were referred to CONCERN Worldwide for further necessary action. Some shelters in the POC require complete rehabilitation/re-construction. The protection desk and Danish Refugee Council (DRC) identified and fast-tracked and prioritized 273 extremely vulnerable individuals who received their food in a timely manner

Central Equatoria

- In Yei, UNHCR partner UMCOR conducted verification exercises for 1,041 IDPs with specific needs (666 female and 375 males) at five locations. The exercise will enhance targeting of UNHCR and UMCOR's support to IDPs and support other humanitarian agencies in their targeting of support as well.
- In Yei, UNHCR conducted training for 20 SGBV frontline staff to help improve their knowledge and skills in responding to and preventing Sexual Gender-based Violence (SGBV). The participants came out with an action plan based on which their agencies will roll out their programs and projects moving ahead. As a follow up to this, the participants were also organized to participate in the webinar on the new SGBV model: "Zero Tolerance Village Alliance Community Engagement in Action".
- In Yei, UNHCR partner UMCOR conducted training for 34 (13 females and 12males) local chiefs, religious leaders and other influential individuals drawn from nine IDP sites. The training helped these individuals open their minds to the power dynamics underlying SGBV and their critical role in the prevention and response to such cases when they occur. Furthermore, the training

gathered opinions of the participants to help come out with appropriate strategies and messages to prevent and respond to SGBV cases.

Identified needs and remaining gaps

Central Equatoria

- In Yei town, continuous displacement of IDPs from one location to another makes it difficult for the protection team to conduct home visits.
- In Yei town, lack of food remains a major challenge to IDPs due lack of access to farmland.

OPERATIONS

Central Equatoria

Achievements and impact

- In Juba, UNHCR conducted a focus group discussion with new arrivals in POC-3. As a result, UNHCR identified persons with special needs (PSNs) among women originating from Unity (Leer), Central Equatoria (Yei), and Eastern Equatoria (Torit). The women are the part of the group of 300 households that arrived at the POC-3 at the beginning of March 2017. Security and malnutrition are the main trigger factors for the displacement while the main protection concerns at the POC are food insecurity, Shelter/NFIs, health. IDPs from all three areas informed of their intention to stay in the POC. UNHCR referred these cases to camp management and cluster partners for their intervention.



Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and impact

Central Equatoria

- In Juba, UNHCR and its partner Humanitarian Development Consortium (HDC) distributed dignity kits to 270 IDPs girls and women of reproductive age affected by the February 19, 2017, fire outbreak in Mahad. This was targeted distribution to support vulnerable to minimize the negative coping mechanism. Items included sanitary napkin, women underwear, washing soap and buckets.
- In Juba, UNHCR distributed NFIs to 37HH/152 individual/ vulnerable new arrival IDPs from Yei. They arrived in December citing insecurity as the reason displacement. Items included; sleeping mate, blanket, mosquito net, bucket, kitchen set and soap. UNHCR supported the IDPs on protection grounds in coordination with Don Bosco parish and NFI Cluster.
- In Juba, during the general food distribution in the POC, UNHCR supported with the prioritization of PSNs; 112 PSNs mainly elderly, people with disabilities and few pregnant and lactating mothers were supported to receive their rations in time. This is in line with UNHCR continued activities of protection mainstreaming in the POC.

Unity

- In Bentiu, UNHCR provided seven solar lanterns to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM)'s clinics as part of protection mainstreaming in health for the safe delivery of mothers and the postnatal care in the POC.

Jonglei

- In Mingkaman, UNHCR and its partner HDC distributed core relief items to 84 PSNs identified during the protection monitoring mission. Items included; blanket, Jerry Can, Sleeping mat, Mosquito net, Kitchen set, and soap. Also, UNHCR distributed sanitary kits to 270 women of reproductive age.

Lakes

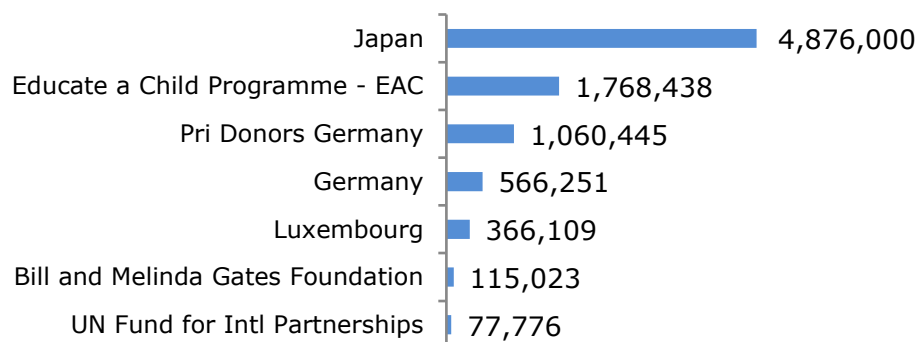
- In Yirol East, UNHCR distributed core relief items to 496 households (1,984 individual IDPs). Items included; blankets, jerry cans, sleeping mats, mosquito nets, kitchen sets, and soap. These IDPs fled from Unity's Leer, Mayendit and Panijar counties due to conflict and famine in late February this year.

Upper Nile

- In Baliet County, UNHCR and its partner HDC in collaboration with the government counterpart the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) conducted a protection monitoring mission to assess NFIs needs. As a result, the team identified and supported 60 HHs of PSNs with NFIs that included; blankets, sleeping mats, kitchen sets, plastic sheeting, jerry cans, mosquito nets, soap and sanitary cloth.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to USD 8,831,642 for the financial year 2017 as of 29 March. 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.



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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](#)