



SOUTH SUDAN

March 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

1,252

Refugees moved to Doro extension after displacement in December unrest in Maban as of 31 March 2017.

8,096

Refugees and IDPs received non-food items assistance from UNHCR across South Sudan in March 2017.

9,699

Refugees living in Pamir camp as of 31 March 2017

2,136

Asylum Seekers registered in South Sudan as of 31 March 2017.

Population of concern

A total of **1.9 million** IDPs

A total of **265,921** refugees

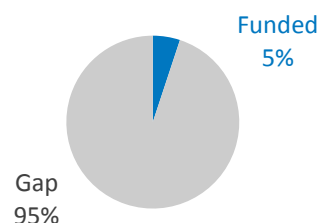
Refugees by country of origin

Country	Total
Sudan	244,777
DRC	14,518
Ethiopia	4,738
Central African Republic	1,854
Other nationalities	34
Total	265,921

Funding 2017

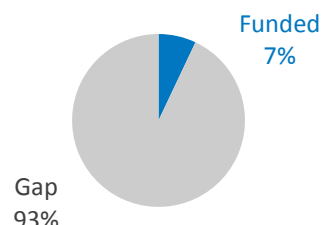
USD 172 million

Requested for comprehensive needs in 2017



USD 125 million

Needed for top priority activities in 2017



UNHCR Presence

Staff: 404

298 national staff

106 international staff

Offices:

11 offices located in:

Juba, Jamjang, Bunj, Bentiu, Bor, Kwajok, Malakal, Rumbek, Yambio, Yei, Yida.

1 field unit located in: Mingkaman.

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- UNHCR works closely with the Government of South Sudan to deliver assistance and protection services to refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs).
- In the **refugee response**, the main government counterparts are the Ministry of Interior and Wildlife Conservation, and the Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA). Implementing partners in 2017 are the following: Action Africa Help International (AAHI), Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA), ACROSS, ACTED, CARE International, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Humanitarian Development Consortium (HDC), International Medical Corps (IMC), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Lutheran World Federation (LWF), Relief International (IR), Samaritan's Pursue (SP), Save the Children International (SCI), UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief), UNV and World Vision International (WVI).
- In the **IDP response**, the main government counterpart is the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission Committee (RRC). Implementing partners in 2017 are: ADRA, UMCOR, Danish Refugee Council, Handicap International, Humanitarian Development Consortium, INTERSOS, International Rescue Committee, Nile Hope, UNV, Women Aid Vision and Women Development Group. Within the IDP response cluster system, UNHCR in South Sudan is Lead of the Protection Cluster (with NRC co-leading), Co-Lead of the CCCM Cluster along with IOM and ACTED, and undertakes enhanced participation in the IOM-led Shelter/NFI Cluster.
- On **prevention of statelessness**, UNHCR's main counterpart is the Directorate of Nationality, Passports and Immigration (DNPI).
- UNHCR maintains an **operational partnership** with CAFOD, Caritas, CMMB, Food Agriculture Organization (FAO), ICRC, Jesuit Refugee Service (JSR), Médecins Sans Frontières (France, Belgium), Medair, Mentor Initiative, OXFAM, UNAIDS, UNOCHA, UN-Habitat, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNMAS, UNMISS, World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO), Women for Women International and UN Women.

MAIN ACTIVITIES – REFUGEE PROGRAMME

Protection

- As of 31 March, 2017, the refugee population in South Sudan stood at 265,921 individuals, consisting of 64,731 households spread in 21 different locations across South Sudan. In March, South Sudan received 1,117 new arrivals mainly from Sudan's South Kordofan, and registered 1,130 new born babies. 52% of the refugees are female: with women and children representing 82% of the total population. The Sudanese refugee population remains the largest at 244,777 individuals (92%) followed by DRC Congo 14,518 individuals (5%), Ethiopia 4,738 individuals (2%) and Central African Republic 1,854 (1%). The majority (90%) of these refugees are hosted in South Sudan's Upper Nile and Unity regions. Furthermore, South Sudan hosted 2,136 asylum seekers and an estimated 1.9 million IDPs.
- Across South Sudan, UNHCR and its partners in collaboration with refugees, host community and IDPs celebrated International Women's Day (IWD) on 8 March. The annual event was marked under the UNHCR theme: "UNHCR Supports Women's Right to Decent Work" and the global theme: "Women in a Changing World of Work: Planet 50-50 by 2030." UNHCR and partners organized a series of events including drama, processions, songs and speeches that raised awareness on the importance of education for women and girls, ending violence against women and girls, peaceful co-existence, and gender equality.

Unity

- In March, UNHCR relocated 1,480 refugees to Pamir camp including 693 new arrivals and 787 refugees previously settled in Yida. Cumulatively, Pamir is hosting 9,699 refugees since opening in September 2016. Upon arrival, refugees received core relief items and residential plots.
- In March, UNHCR relocated 901 individuals to Ajuong Thok camp including 440 new arrivals and 461 refugees previously settled in Yida on family reunification grounds. Most of these refugees are members of nuclear families, while others were considered on foster caring grounds.
- 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.
- 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 in late March. The exercise will continue to cover all refugees over the age of sixteen in Pamir camp.

Upper Nile

- In Doro refugee camp, UNHCR and its partners in coordination with the CRA relocated 1,252 individuals (243 households) of a total 8,000 refugees affected by the December 2016 conflict between refugees and host communities to the 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 Maban, UNHCR and partner the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) organized a one-day training on access to justice and the rule of law 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.
- Maban, UNHCR, The United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) Civil Affairs Department and partner Humanitarian Development Consortium (HDC) co-facilitated a two-day training to 52 participants on conflict management, prevention, peaceful resolution, reconciliation and sustainable peace. The second training, with the theme "supporting traditional institutions and mechanism in conflict management" targeted Peace Committees and members of the traditional courts. Participants were drawn from traditional courts and peace committee from the host and refugees populations. Participants agreed that they would assist in disseminating peaceful coexistence commitments.

Central Equatoria

- 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. Furthermore, UNHCR renewed 41 ID cards in Gorom refugee settlement.
- 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.
- In Gorom refugee settlement, from 30 to 31 March, UNHCR facilitated a two-day information session to 14 members of the 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.

Education

Upper Nile

- In Yusuf Batil and Gendressa refugee camps, UNHCR and its partner Lutheran World Federation (LWF) distributed 1,816 textbooks to the Accelerated Learning Programmes (ALP) and primary schools.
- In Maban, UNHCR and its education partners Save the Children International (SCI), Lutheran World Federation (LWF), and Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) in coordination with the County Education Office facilitated the South Sudan Secondary School Certificate Examinations for 306 candidates, which commenced on 6 March 2017. About 75% of candidates are refugee students attending Bunj Secondary school together with the host community students.
- In Kaya, Yusuf Batil and Gendressa camps, UNHCR and its partner LWF distributed 125 cartons of exercise books to pupils in all primary schools, while in Gendressa UNHCR distributed underwear to adolescent girls, and 1,192 uniforms were distributed to pupils.

Unity

- UNHCR partner LWF delivered 70 desks to Kings of Nuba primary school in Pamir, 50 desks to Napata and 80 to Merowe primary schools to mitigate the shortage of desks. Meanwhile, LWF is in the process of recruiting more teachers for Kings of Nuba primary schools to reduce the pupil teacher ratio, which is currently very high at more than 1:110.

Western Equatoria

- In Makpandu refugee settlement, UNHCR distributed 14 solar lanterns to 14 candidates who are preparing to sit for the South Sudan Secondary School Certificate.

Food Security and Nutrition

Western Equatoria

- In Makpandu refugee settlement, UNHCR partner World Vision International (WVI) on behalf of World Food Programme (WFP) conducted General Food Distributions (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 GFDI.

Upper Nile

- In Maban camps, WFP conducted GFD for March. The 70% food basket consisted of pulses and cooking oil.

- In Bunj, the final nutrition survey report was released, and the Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) prevalence 12.5 % in Doro, 12.5% in Kaya, 9.6 % in Yusuf Batil and 7.5 % in Gendrassa. 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 can curb further deterioration of the situation.

Water and Sanitation

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 Maban's three camps, the water supply coverage increased to the level of 21 liters per person per day, except for Kaya Camp where water coverage fluctuated during the reporting period – efforts are underway to bring the water supply to normal. Sanitation coverage stood at 12 persons per latrine in all camps.

Shelter and NFI

Central Equatorial

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

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

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 Maban, 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 and as a confidence and trust building measure for more engagement and involvement with the joint peace committee. 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.
- 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. 1,000 households from the host community will also benefit from the agricultural seeds distribution.
- In Kaya and Gendrassa camps, UNHCR and partner ACTED mobilized and established 10 out of 20 targeted for 2017 Voluntary Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) groups. While in Doro and Yusuf Batil camps, RI established 13 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. RI also supported the formation of 11 Village Saving Loans Associations (VSLA) each comprising 20 members. The 220 VSLA members will undergo a 9-month training cycle on savings and loans concepts as well as receive entrepreneurship training. The overall aim is to ensure increased access to financial and social capital among persons of concern who participate in the association activities.
- In Doro camp, UNHCR and partner RI issued business start-up kits to 43 entrepreneurs following entrepreneurship training and business pitch competitions, where viable proposals were awarded in-kind grants to establish small businesses. Small business ideas supported include butchery and livestock trade; bakery; snack and teashop; hairdressing and vegetable production.

Central Equatoria

- In Yei, UNHCR partner UMCOR through community based extension workers in Lasu, mobilized an additional 54 farmers for the first season of cultivation, bringing the total to 101 farmers mobilized since the beginning of the year. The farmers are reportedly commenced the planting of vegetable and cereal crops to bridge the food gap.



Achievements and Impact

Upper Nile

- In Yusuf Batil camp, UNHCR and its partner RI supported 20 women stove producers to undertake molding of fuel efficient stoves. As a result, the women produced 160 fuel-efficient clay stoves. The fuel efficient stoves will reduce fetching of firewood, environmental degradation and prevent Sexual Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in the surrounding areas of the camp.

MAIN ACTIVITIES – IDP PROGRAMME

Protection

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.
- In March, 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 to 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.
- In March, 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.
- In March, UNHCR and partners HDC, Samaritan's Purse and government counterpart Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) conducted an inter-agency mission to assess the situation of IDPs in Rambo and gather information following the reports from the government authorities on the new arrivals of IDPs in Rambo from Nassir County and Benashawa (Maban County) living in a dire situation due to lack of food and health facilities. The assessment team found 345 households (1,343 individuals). Key findings included; IDPs are seeking safety in Rambo near the barracks as they feel safe with the presence of military; IDPs are suffering due to lack of food and lack of support; the presence of unaccompanied and separated children as well as missing children and parents was also noted. Key recommendations included immediate provision of food and NFIs support and continuous protection monitoring to monitor the population movements and dynamics.
- In March, UNHCR partner ADRA conducted a series of workshops on Sexual Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) prevention and response in Udier Banytik and Nyieng Gok Boma of Longechuk and Nasir counties to 150 community members. Also in Nasir, ADRA organized another workshop on peaceful co-existence to 30 people consisting of the local authority, religious and opinion leaders, IDPs and host community representatives.

Unity

- In Bentiu's protection of civilian (POC) site, UNHCR continued its counseling and outreach activities during the reporting period. 54 complaints 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 then 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 produced 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.

Western Equatoria

- In March, UNHCR undertook a protection monitoring mission to Riimenze to assess the situation of 6,617 IDPs sheltering at the Catholic Church premises. The mission’s findings included priority needs and gaps such as lack of food, non-food items, education, and health facilities. UNHCR briefed humanitarian actors in Yambio to intervene to fill the gaps identified above. Displacement was caused by fighting between government forces and armed youth in surrounding villages since 3 January 2017 near Riimenze 30 kilometers from Yambio town.

OPERATIONS

Achievements and impact

■ **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 part of the group of 300 households that arrived at 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, and health. IDPs from all three areas noted their intention to stay in the POC. UNHCR referred these cases to camp management and cluster partners for their intervention.
- In Juba, UNHCR and its partner HDC distributed kitchen sets to 656 individuals (164 households) as a supplement of NFI Cluster assistance to persons with special needs living at the Mahad IDP collective site; the distribution was conducted following the fire incident on 19 February. Cumulatively, 936 fire victims have been assisted between February and March 2017.

Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and impact

Central Equatoria

- In Juba, UNHCR and its partner HDC distributed dignity kits to 270 IDP 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 37 households (152 individuals) of 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 a 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 safe delivery for mothers and the postnatal care in the POC.

Jonglei

- In Mingkaman, UNHCR and its partner HDC distributed non-food items items to 84 PSNs identified during the protection monitoring mission. Items included; blankets, jerry cans, sleeping mats, mosquito nets, kitchen sets, 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 Panyijar counties due to conflict and famine in late February this year.

Upper Nile

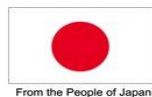
- In Baliet County, UNHCR and its partner HDC in collaboration with the government counterpart the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) conducted a protection monitoring mission to assess NFIs needs. As a result, the team identified and supported 60 HHs of PSNs with NFIs that included; blankets, sleeping mats, kitchen sets, plastic sheeting, jerry cans, mosquito nets, soap and sanitary cloth.
- In Malakal town, UNHCR and its partner HDC supported 560 Persons with Special Needs (PSNs) with non-food items including plastic sheets, sleeping mats, blankets and jerry cans at SOS (Save Our Soul) center.
- In Wau Shilluk, UNHCR in coordination with the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) assisted additional 20 Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs) with NFIs that included plastic sheets, sleeping mats, blankets and jerry cans.

Western Bahr el Ghazal

- In Wau, UNHCR distributed non-food items (NFIs) to 4,483 most vulnerable IDPs including 1,175 at Nog-lima, 1,262 at Ngisa 2,046 at the Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS) premises outside Wau town. NFIs included dignity kits for women of reproductive age, pieces of soap, secondhand clothes, jerry cans, and buckets. This intervention comes after the government granted access to the Baggari area, which has been inaccessible to aid agencies since 2016. Thousands of IDPs settled in Baggari County and surrounding villages as a result of the armed conflict which intensified around Wau in June 2016.

UNHCR'S MAIN DONORS IN 2017

BILL & MELINDA
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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](#)

[UNHCR Press Release: UNHCR welcomes South Sudan's accession to the African refugee convention](#)

[UNHCR Press Release: UNHCR condemns attacks on refugee settlement in South Sudan](#)

[UNHCR Press Release: UNHCR opens a new refugee camp in northern Unity](#)