

South Sudanese Refugee Situation

Democratic Republic of the Congo

24 - 30 July 2017

As of 30th July 2017, **82,322 South Sudanese refugees** were **registered** or pre-registered in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Fighting in South Sudan in proximity to the border with the Haut-Uélé and Ituri provinces was ongoing and continued to cause a flow of refugees arriving in the DRC.

During the reporting week, **424 South Sudanese refugees were registered** at the Meri site (Haut-Uélé province) and Biringi site (Ituri province), compared to 575 of the previous week.

KEY INDICATORS

82,322

South Sudanese refugees **registered or pre-registered** as of 30th July 2017

53%

Percentage of the refugees are women and girls

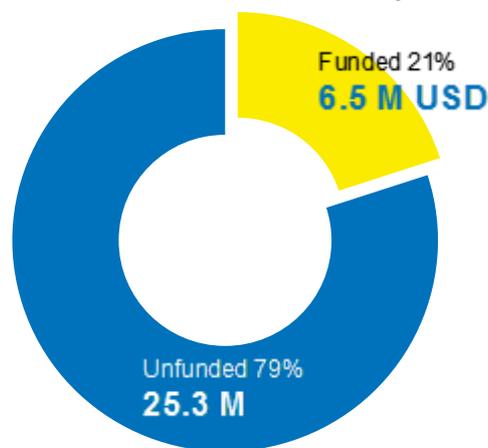
27,366

South Sudanese refugees living in the refugee sites of Meri and Biringi

FUNDING (AS OF 30 JULY 2017)

USD 31.8 M

requested for the DRC - South Sudanese refugee situation



Update on Achievements

Operational Context

- **Haut-Uélé province:** following clashes between the South Sudanese Armed Forces (SPLA) and the anti-governmental forces (SPLA-IO) in Kaya and Tore, refugees continued to arrive at the Meri site (and to a lesser extent at the Biringi site). Moreover, the presence and activities of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in the Haut-Uélé province remained a concern with civilians being among the main target. The understaffed police and Congolese Armed Forces (FARDC) in the region and the difficulties to access many zones remained the main obstacles to counter the armed groups. Assistance to the refugees residing in the proximity of the border north of Doruma remained suspended until the security situation improves.
- **Ituri province:** the continued presence of over a thousand unidentified armed troops was reported in the border areas of the Aru territory around the locality of Kakwa. A large number of South Sudanese refugees reside along this border. It seemed troops wore uniforms but neither those of the Congolese, Ugandan nor South Sudanese army have been reported to legally cross into the DRC to get food provisions in places such as Agoroba, Olendere and Bula.



Some of the 120 pupils who attend primary school at the Biringi site in front of three classrooms under construction. A further 621 children of primary school age urgently need to be enrolled for the next school year. © UNHCR/ A.Cadonau, June 2017

**PROTECTION****Achievements and Impact**

- **Registration** – 424 refugees were registered during the reporting week; 90% at the Meri site and 10% at the transit center in Aru before being relocated to the Biringi site. 70% of the refugees who arrived in Meri were children. The total population amounted to 24,518 in Meri and 2,848 in Biringi. Almost 60% of all refugees at these sites are children.
- **Specific needs** – One fifth of the refugees in Biringi and Meri have specific needs, such as the elderly and sick, persons with disabilities, pregnant and lactating women, single parents and unaccompanied and separated minors. UNHCR's social partner in Biringi prepares hot meals, distributes food and non-food items, and provides them with individual psycho-social support.
- **Child protection** – Six best interest determinations (BID) for unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) were conducted in Biringi. None were conducted in Meri during the reporting week; the UASC are placed in foster families until best interest determinations are conducted.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Risk of mines and unexploded ordnance** – The UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) confirmed two areas containing anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines and unexploded ordnance along the border of the Aru territory. Clearance of these hazardous areas is currently not possible due to the security situation and appropriate markings to warn the population are not in place. This constitutes a serious risk for refugees crossing the border outside of the commonly used axes. UNHCR plans mine risk education in the affected zones together with UNMAS.
- **Child protection** – Low primary school enrollment rates and the absence of secondary education, vocational training, child-friendly spaces and supervision and mentoring for children and youth pose a serious protection issue and risk to foster youth delinquency.
- **Security** – 55 additional police officers in Meri and four police officers in Biringi are urgently needed to ensure the refugees' safety. The Meri site – less than 20 km from the border – is highly exposed to the increased insecurity in South Sudan.

**EDUCATION****Achievements and Impact**

- **Enrollment** – During the summer break, UNHCR's social partner continues its campaign in Biringi and Meri to persuade parents to enroll their children in school. During the first semester of the year, 120 out of 620 children of primary school age in Biringi attended school (19%) and 930 out of 5,460 children (17%) in Meri.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Primary education** – 18 additional classrooms are urgently needed for the 5,460 children of primary school age in Meri. Six classrooms exist, three are being constructed and another six are planned for the second half of 2017. In Biringi, three classrooms accommodate 120 children of primary school age; however, there should be room for the additional 620 children of this age group currently not attending school. Three additional classrooms are being built and another six planned.
- **Language courses** – The four hangars which accommodate the French classes in Meri were vandalized due to the lack of available building material in the vicinity of the site and urgently need to be reconstructed.



HEALTH

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Respiratory infections** – Acute respiratory infections were the most common pathology identified in Biringi during the reporting week.
- **Malaria** – Malaria remained the most prevalent disease in Dungu and the second most prevalent in Biringi. Refugees who are hosted in hangars due to the lack of shelter and building material do not have access to mosquito nets which highly increases the prevalence of malaria. In both Meri and Biringi, more than half of the refugees do not have a mosquito net; leaving a gap of 12,500 nets in Meri and 1,570 in Biringi.
- **Pertussis** – *Médecins sans Frontières* alerted UNHCR about the prevalence of pertussis in the border area of the Aru territory. 26 cases were identified, among which were 23 refugees. The vaccination coverage against this disease is very low.



FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Achievements and Impact

- **Capacity building** – The World Food Programme (WFP) conducted a one-day training for UNHCR staff and its partners from Dungu, Aba and Aru on managing stocks and distributing food and non-food items.
- **Food distribution** – Food supplies were distributed in the Dungu territory. The beneficiaries of July's food distribution included 3,000 refugees in Duru, Bitima, Mogoroko and Dungu.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Malnutrition** – Malnutrition remains a serious concern among the newly arrived refugees. In Meri, 21 new cases of acute malnutrition were identified (20 children and one lactating woman). Overall, 607 cases of malnutrition were registered in Meri (292 children below the age of five, 211 lactating or pregnant women and 104 chronically ill). In Biringi, among six children who underwent nutritional screening, half were

identified as malnourished. Overall, 93 cases of malnutrition were registered in Biringi (57 children below the age of five, 24 lactating and 12 pregnant women). The malnourished refugees received food supplements at both sites.



WATER AND SANITATION

Achievements and Impact

- **Water** – One of the four broken boreholes at the Nambili site was repaired and spare parts for the three others were on their way. The site and its vicinity count four functional boreholes which provide an average of 14, 5 liters of water per person and day; 30% below UNHCR's minimal standard of 20 liters.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Water** – An additional 36 water points are required to complement the 23 existing ones in Meri and to ensure the availability of 20 liters of water per person per day. Water supply remained unsatisfactory in Meri with 13 l/p/d.
- **Latrines** – In Meri, 309 communal latrines and 7,000 family latrines are required to reach the minimal standard. Overall, 905 latrines were functional at the Meri site with an average of 27 refugees sharing one latrine. In Biringi, at least 1,200 family latrines are needed. The 125 communal latrines in Biringi will soon reach their capacity limits in the absence of sufficient family latrines.
- **Waste management** – An additional 287 waste bins and 44 garbage pits are needed in Meri to ensure proper waste management and to prevent the spread of diseases. The available 189 waste bins and four garbage pits have reached their limits.
- **Laundry facilities** – 59 communal washing areas are needed in Meri; none exist as of today which poses a hazard for the contamination of drinking water.



SHELTER AND NFI

Achievements and Impact

- **NFI** – Every household in Biringi is provided with core relief items (blankets, floor mats, jerry cans, buckets, mosquito nets, kitchen sets and soap) upon arrival.
- **Shelter** – 32 households in Meri received a partial construction kit consisting of door panels and straw. UNHCR raised the number of emergency shelters to be built in 2017 from 500 to 700, but this is insufficient to fill the existing gap.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Shelter** - 5,170 families in Meri urgently require shelter. Some refugees live in the transit hangars for over six months due to the lack of adequate shelter.
- **Hangars** – In Meri, 20 hangars are urgently required for temporary accommodation of the newly arrived refugees, registration activities, distribution of food and relief material,

medical and nutritional screenings and language courses. As of today, 28 hangars are in place.



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

Achievements and Impact

- **Availability of fields** – All newly arrived refugees in Biringi have the possibility to obtain a plot of land (50x100 m per household) to cultivate their own crops. Additional land is still available for the refugees arriving in the future.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Income Generating Activities** – Alternative income generating activities for the refugees with specific needs who are not able to farm are needed. UNHCR plans the introduction of alternative income generating activities (e.g. vocational training in hairdressing and milling) in Biringi and Meri for August.

Working in partnership

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

External / Donors Relations

Donors for SSD refugee response in DRC in 2017

United States of America (6.2 M) | Belgium (0.3 M)

Other donors for UNHCR operations in DRC in 2017

United States of America (22.2 M) | Japan (2.5 M) | Belgium (1.1 M) | European Union (1.1 M) | Sweden (1.1 M) | UNIQLO Co. Ltd (0.9 M) | DRC Humanitarian Fund (0.8 M) | Canada (0.7 M) | Private Donors Germany (0.5 M) | France (0.5 M) | Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints (0.2 M) | U.N. Foundation (0.2 M) | Private Donors Spain (0.07 M) | Private Donors Republic of Korea (0.05 M) | Vodafone Foundation (0.05 M)

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LINKS

[Regional portal for SSD situation](#) - [DRC page for SSD situation](#) – [DRC Facebook page](#)