

# South Sudanese Refugee Situation

## Democratic Republic of the Congo

10 - 16 July 2017

As of 15<sup>th</sup> July 2017, **81,298 South Sudanese refugees** were **registered** or pre-registered in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

During the first half of July 2017, **523 South Sudanese refugees were biometrically registered** in the DRC. The number of new arrivals remained similar compared to the second half of June (561).

The Congolese Government allowed the use of the former refugee site “Kaka” in the Dungu territory (Haut-Uélé province) for the relocation of refugees from the border areas.

### KEY INDICATORS

**81,298**

South Sudanese refugees **registered and pre-registered** as of 15<sup>th</sup> July 2017

**53%**

**Percentage** of the refugees are women and girls

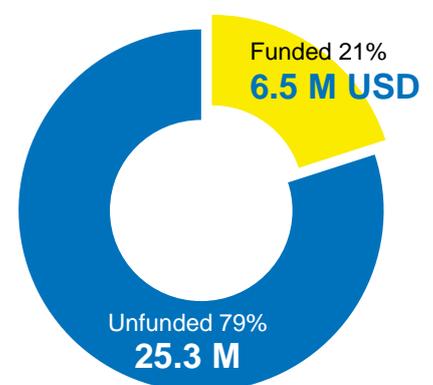
**26,342**

South Sudanese refugees living in refugee sites of Meri and Biringi

### FUNDING (AS OF 03 JULY 2017)

**USD 31.8 M**

requested for the DRC - South Sudanese refugee situation



# Update on Achievements

## Operational Context

- On 15<sup>th</sup> July, UNHCR received information from different sources alleging an increase in the number of refugees crossing the border with South Sudan in the vicinity of Kengezi base, Arile and Ulendere (Ituri province). UNHCR launched a border monitoring mission on 16<sup>th</sup> July to cover the different entry points and assess the movements.
- The security situation remained relatively calm throughout the Faradje territory (Haut-Uélé province) and Aru territory (Ituri province).
- Security in the Dungu territory (Haut-Uélé province) remained a concern. Large and heavily armed alleged Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) elements reportedly looted goods, abducted several people and forced them to work. The situation was worst between Dungu and Limay (Duru axis) and between Dungu and Li-Ika (Ngilima axis). The weak presence of the Congolese armed forces (FARDC) remained one of the factors favoring the circulation of the LRA. MONUSCO relaunched a weekly patrol between Bangadi and Nambia (Niagara territory).



*The construction of three additional classrooms at the Biringi site advanced © AIRD, July 2017*

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

- **New arrivals** – 355 South Sudanese refugees were biometrically registered during the reporting week; 93% thereof at the Meri site (Faradje territory, Haut-Uélé province) and 7% at the Biringi site (Aru territory, Ituri province). 54% of the newly registered refugees were girls and women in Meri, respectively 50% in Birinigi. As of 15<sup>th</sup> July 2017, the total refugee population amounted to 23,551 in Meri, and 2,791 in Biringi.
- **Allocation of new refugee site** – The Congolese Government allowed the use of the former refugee site “Kaka” in the Dungu territory (Haut-Uélé province) for the relocation of the refugees, particularly from the Doruma and Bitima areas. At the time of reporting, the security situation impeded relocating the refugees from the border towards the new site.
- **Security** – Biringi’s vigilance committee was reactivated and equipped with boots, torches, whistles and sticks to support the police force in securing the site.
- **Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)** – 396 individuals in Meri and 45 in Biringi were taught about the prevention and response to SGBV. The victims of two newly reported SGBV cases in Biringi and two in Meri received medical and psycho-social support.
- **Child protection** – In the first half of July, 31 best interest assessments for unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) were conducted in Biringi and a tennis match was organized to allow the UASC some recreational time. Four separated children were identified during the week’s biometrical registration in Meri.

**Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps**

- **Security** – 52 additional police officers are urgently needed to secure the Meri site. Today, 20 police officers are present whereas 72 are needed to reach the minimal standard for the 24,000 refugees living at the site. This gap is critical in view of the insecurity on the South Sudanese side of the border (less than 20 km away) and in absence of a strong Congolese military presence in the area, the refugees are highly exposed. Moreover, the vigilance committee of Meri requires equipment (whistles, boots, sticks and torches) in order to be able to perform its tasks within the community.
- **Prosecution** – The prosecution of criminal offences remains challenging due to the absence of an adequate police force and the inexistence of administrative and judiciary institutions in the area of Meri. Moreover, the local prison is in a desolate state and does not allow detention for longer than 24 hours. Transport of detainees to the closest court in Dungu is problematic due to the poor security situation on this road section requiring systematic MONUSCO escort for humanitarians.

- **Relocation** – The majority of the refugees who cross into the Aru territory (Ituri province) remained scattered along the precarious border. Their willingness to relocate remained limited, with only 26 refugees relocated to Biringi this week.



## EDUCATION

### Achievements and Impact

- **Construction of classrooms** – The construction of three additional classrooms in Biringi and three in Meri continued in preparation of the new school year starting in September. At the time of reporting, three classrooms existed in Biringi and six in Meri; however, 18 classrooms are needed to accommodate the children at school age at the Meri site.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Enrollment** – 621 children of primary school age did not attend school in Biringi due to the lack of funds; merely 120 children attended primary school in the first semester of 2017 and there were no possibilities to attend secondary school. The 621 children urgently need to be enrolled for the next school year starting in September.



## HEALTH

### Achievements and Impact

- **Medical screening** – 299 newly arrived refugees were medically screened in Meri and 15 at the transit centre in Aru; those in need received appropriate medical care.
- **Medical care** – In Meri, 681 patients were consulted at the different health facilities and six births were registered. 338 patients and 10 pregnant women were consulted as outpatients at the health post and hospital in Biringi, two births were registered and 11 new patients admitted to the hospital.
- **HIV/AIDS** – All 36 persons living with HIV/AIDS in Biringi continued to receive antiretroviral treatment; no new cases of refugees living with HIV/AIDS were identified. This week, 864 condoms were distributed at the Biringi site.
- **Vaccination** – Measles immunization coverage was above the targeted 95% in Biringi.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Risk of epidemics** – Due to the important gaps in shelter, common infrastructures, water shower and latrines, the risk of epidemics such as cholera is extremely high in Meri.
- **Malaria** – The fact that only one mosquito net is distributed per household leads to a critical lack of nets at the Biringi site. In addition, the wrong usage of the nets

contributes to a high prevalence of malaria (with 22% the disease identified the most often among the patients). Moreover, refugees hosted in hangars for long periods in Meri and Biringi do not have access to mosquito nets, which highly increases the prevalence of malaria.



## FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

### Achievements and Impact

- **Food distribution** – At the Biringi site, 297 kg corn flour, 25 l oil and 5 kg salt were distributed. 642 newly arrived refugees in Meri received 1,682 packs of biscuits. Food distribution was underway during the reporting week at the Nambili site.
- **Hot meals** – In Biringi, 1,129 hot meals were distributed to 88 persons, including those with specific needs, newly arrived refugees and hospitalized patients. In addition, 368 hot meals were distributed to the newly arrived refugees at the transit centre in Aru. In Meri, 2,526 hot meals and 324 portions of mash were distributed to 955 refugees.
- **Cash grants** – The World Food Programme (WFP) distributed the monthly cash grants in Biringi on 15 July. The distribution was planned in Meri for the week of 17-21 July.
- **Nutritional screening** – Of 54 refugees screened in Meri, 21 children below five years were identified with acute malnutrition and the appropriate treatment was commenced. Overall, there were 499 cases of malnutrition in Meri. Three malnourished children were identified among the host community in Biringi; however, none among the newly arrived refugees. Overall, 49 malnourished refugee children below the age of five were registered in Biringi; they received a corn-soya-blend as nutritional supplement.



## WATER AND SANITATION

### Achievements and Impact

- **Water and sanitation** – 912 water purifying tablets were distributed in Biringi and the WASH partner followed up on the construction of two family latrines and showers which were being built using a cash-based intervention approach. The hygiene and sanitation promoters in Biringi and Meri continued door-to-door campaigns on the importance of washing hands.
- **Latrines** – In Meri, 19 latrines were built during the reporting week. In total, 905 latrines are functional at the site (738 family latrines and 167 community latrines).

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Water** – Water supply remains problematic in all sites. In Meri, only 13 liters were available per person and day, 35% below UNHCR’s minimal standard of 20 liters. An additional 36 water points are required to complement the 23 existing ones.
- **Sanitation** – 309 community latrines and almost 7,000 family latrines are required at the Meri site to reach the minimal standard. An average of 27 refugees currently share one latrine in Meri.



## SHELTER AND NFIS

### Achievements and Impact

- **NFI** – The 26 newly arrived refugees at the Aru transit centre and Biringi site received blankets and mats (one per person), jerry cans, kitchen sets, buckets and mosquito nets (one per household) plus soap (500 g per household).
- **Shelter** – In Meri, 256 out of the 300 new shelters foreseen for 2017 were completed and the remaining 44 were being constructed. All 217 shelters planned in Biringi for 2017 had previously been completed. As part of UNHCR’s mid-term review, the number of additional shelters to be built in 2017 is currently being evaluated.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Shelter** – 5,170 emergency shelters and 20 hangars are urgently needed to provide basic support to the refugee population in Meri. 33 of the 50 communal hangars were previously vandalized. These acts underline the pressing need for building material and shelters for the newly arrived refugees, as well as for enforced security services to prevent vandalism. Serious difficulties in housing the newly relocated refugees are also encountered at the Biringi site due to lack of shelter and communal hangars; even in the transit hangars no more space was available.



## COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

### Achievements and Impact

- **Preparation of fields** – UNHCR’s social partner ADSSE and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) supported the refugees in Meri in the preparation and sowing of their fields.
- **Farming** – A 1 ha field was allocated to two refugees in Biringi. Overall, beans, rice, tomatoes, sorghum and millet were planted during the reporting period.

## 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'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) | Sweden (1.1 M) | DRC Humanitarian Fund (0.8 M) | Canada (0.7 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) | Vodafone Foundation (0.05 M)

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### **LINKS**

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