

# South Sudanese Refugee Situation

## Democratic Republic of the Congo

28 August – 03 September 2017

Clashes in South Sudan continued to cause arrivals into the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). 233 **South Sudanese refugees** were biometrically registered during the reporting week.

During the month of August, **more South Sudanese refugees were registered** (2,030) than during the previous months of July (1,547) and June (1,280).

5,000 refugees and members of the local community were sensitized to the prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence at the Meri and Biringi sites.

### KEY INDICATORS

**83,266**

South Sudanese refugees registered or pre-registered as of 15<sup>th</sup> August 2017

**53%**

Women and girls

**64%**

Children below the age of 18 years

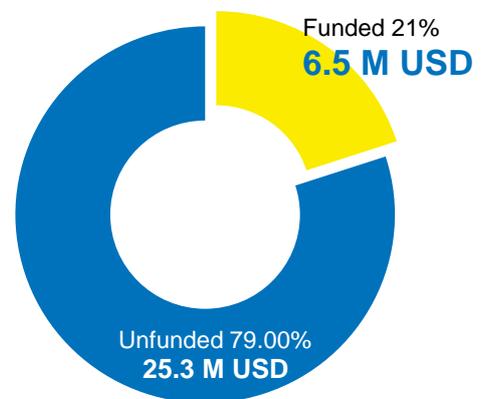
**28,310**

Refugees living in the refugee sites of Meri and Biringi as of 15<sup>th</sup> August 2017.

### FUNDING (AS OF 20 AUGUST 2017)

**USD 31.8 M**

requested for the DRC - South Sudanese refugee situation



# Update on Achievements

## Operational Context

- Incursions of South Sudanese belligerents in Aru territory were reported. UNHCR partners continued to sensitize refugees settled in the border areas to relocate to Biringi site.
- The security situation in the Dungu territory (Haut-Uélé) continued to be precarious. Lootings, kidnappings and forced labour are attributed to Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) elements and caused UNHCR movements restriction along the border.



*Refugee women increasing their self-sufficiency by working their paddy fields at the Biringi site  
© UNHCR / A. Cadonau August 2017*

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

- **Registration** – 170 newly arrived South Sudanese refugees were biometrically registered at the Meri site (Haut-Uélé province) and 63 at the Biringi site (Ituri province). As of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017, 26,338 South Sudanese refugees were registered in Meri and 3,058 in Biringi. (figures to be integrated in next statistics report).
- **Child protection** – UNHCR's social partner ADSSE visited 32 unaccompanied and separated children in Biringi and 11 in Meri to ensure their well-being in the foster families and to assess their specific needs.
- **Prison visit** – Following the intervention of UNHCR and its partners, a detained asylum seeker was released from prison in Meri for lack of proof of an offence.

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

- **Enrollment** – For the school year 2017-2018, UNHCR will support 4,000 pupils in primary education in Biringi, Meri and Dungu. During the previous school year, UNHCR covered school fees, uniforms and school material for 2,450 refugees in primary school.
- **Language courses** – UNHCR will rehabilitate the hangars that serve as classrooms for the French language classes in Meri and Biringi after they were vandalized. This will allow to continue the courses which are essential for the integration of the refugee children into the national school system.

**HEALTH****Achievements and Impact**

- **Prevention** – 200 pregnant women in Biringi received prenatal advice and information on the referral health system. In Meri, all 44 newly registered children below the age of five received vitamin A and were dewormed. 1,000 condoms were distributed in Meri and 800 in Biringi.

**FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION****Achievements and Impact**

- **Food distribution** – 420 of the most vulnerable refugees in Meri were served with hot meals. In Biringi, 120 refugees received 730 hot meals. UNHCR in collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP) distributed flour, beans, vegetable oil and salt to 1,740 refugees in Bitima and Mogoroko (Dungu territory), while 1,700 refugees in Dungu and Duru had previously received their monthly food supply.
- **Nutrition** – During the nutritional screening of the newly arrived refugees, 10% of the children below the age of five in Meri were identified as malnourished and were admitted to the feeding programme. Overall, 648 malnourished refugees were registered in Meri (346 children and 302 pregnant or lactating women) and 123 in Biringi (62 children and 61 pregnant or lactating women); all of them received food supplements.

**WATER AND SANITATION****Achievements and Impact**

- **Hygiene** – 1,500 women, men, girls and boys were sensitized in Meri and Biringi to the importance of water treatment and food handling to avoid waterborne diseases. 2,300 packages of water purification tablets were distributed in Meri to over 1,000 families.
- **Latrines** – In Meri, 14 latrines and showers were constructed using a cash-based intervention (CBI) approach. 58 of the 85 planned CBI latrines were finished.

**Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps**

- **Water** – Water production in Meri remained frail with 11, 8 liters per person/day, provided by 23 springs. An additional 36 water points are required to meet UNHCR's standard of 20 liters. The average water production in Biringi was 17 liters per person/day; an additional three water points are required.
- **Latrines** – In Meri, 1,000 latrines and 1,200 showers were operational. Only 12% of the need for latrines and 14% for showers was covered. Additional funds for the construction of 7,500 latrines and 7,300 showers in Meri are urgently required. In Biringi, 100 latrines and showers were functional, leaving a gap of more than 1,000.



## COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

### Achievements and Impact

- **Income generating activities** – UNHCR and the International Labor Organization (ILO) were conducting value chains assessments for income generating activities in Biringi. Agriculture remained the only income generating activity that is promoted as of today. Promoting stockbreeding, hairdressing, tailoring and milling was being considered as a possible alternative to enhance the refugees' self-reliance, including for those who are unable to farm due to their age, health or other circumstances. Needs assessments will also be conducted in Meri and Dungu.
- **Agriculture** – Two agronomists and four instructors assisted the refugees in Biringi and Meri with the preparation and maintenance of their fields and advice for harvest, storage of produce and seeds. With the support of UNHCR and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), 470 refugee families harvested 15,200 kg beans and 130 local families harvested 4,800 kg beans in Meri.
- **Community service** – UNHCR's social partner ADSSE engaged 300 refugees in Biringi in community services, including maintaining the local graveyard.



## CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

### Achievements and Impact

- **New refugee site** – In preparation for refugees' relocation to the new site "Kaka" in Dungu, UNHCR conducted a training on international protection for its implementing partners, security officers and non-governmental organizations.

## 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)

### CONTACTS

**Chiara Cavalcanti**, Associate Reporting Officer, DR Congo - RR Kinshasa,  
cavalcan@unhcr.org, Tel: +243 996 041 000, Cell +243 810 403 901

**Anita Cadonau**, Associate External Relations and Reporting Officer, DR Congo -  
SO Aru, cadonau@unhcr.org, Cell +243 817 788 422

### LINKS

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

**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**  
South Sudanese Refugees

