

South Sudanese Refugee Situation

Democratic Republic of the Congo

14 – 20 August 2017

3,800 refugee women, girls, boys and men were sensitized on the prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence at the Meri and Biringi sites.

1,300 new **South Sudanese refugees** were biometrically registered at the Meri and Biringi sites since the beginning of August. During the reporting week, 357 refugees were registered.

As of 15th August, **83,266 South Sudanese refugees** were registered or pre-registered in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

KEY INDICATORS

83,266

South Sudanese refugees registered or pre-registered as of 15th August 2017

53%

Women and girls

64%

Children below the age of 18 years

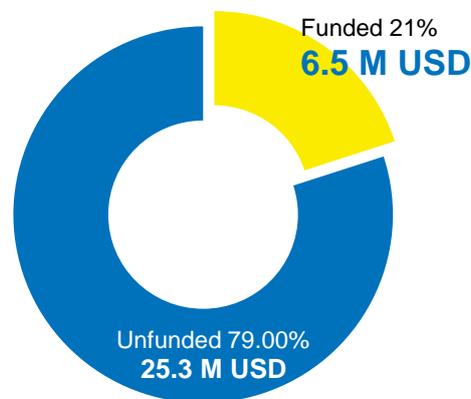
28,310

Refugees living in the refugee sites of Meri and Biringi as of 15th 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

- South Sudanese refugees continued to arrive in the DRC's Haut-Uélé and Ituri provinces. UNHCR's partners, including the National Commission for Refugees (CNR), continued sensitizing the refugees residing along the border of the Ituri province to relocate to the Biringi site, which is located at a safer distance to the South Sudanese border.
- The security situation in the Dungu territory (Haut-Uélé) remained precarious. More than 40 civilians were allegedly kidnapped by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) on a single day in a locality between Dungu and Doruma. The activities of armed groups in this territory put a strain on UNHCR's operations as they block vital access to the border areas, where a large number of refugees and asylum seekers reside, and only allow limited assistance through UNHCR's implementing partners.



Newly arrived refugee children at the Biringi site waiting to receive a hot meal and to be allocated to their temporary home in one of the transit hangars. © UNHCR / A.Cadonau August 2017

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

- **Registration** – 357 newly arrived refugees were biometrically registered at the Meri site (Haut-Uélé province). As of 20th August, 25,709 South Sudanese refugees were registered at the Meri site and 2,956 at the Biringi site (figures to be integrated in next statistics report).
- **Prison visits** – Following UNHCR's and National Commission for Refugees' (CNR) intervention with the competent prosecutor, a refugee was released from the prison in Aru where he had been detained for over four months without any charges brought against him. UNHCR and its health partner ADES further followed up on the state of health of another detained refugee at the prison in Aru.
- **Recreation** – Tennis and soccer matches and different games were organized for the refugee children and the host community in Biringi by social partner ADSSE (*Association pour le Développement Social et la Sauvegarde de l'Environnement*).

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Following minor security incidents occurred in Meri site at the beginning of the month that generated protests of refugees against the police, 40 additional policemen are needed to ensure proper securitization of the refugee site.

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

- **New school year** – UNHCR's social partner ADSSE met with several school principals in Dungu to facilitate the integration of the refugee children into the national schools. In Biringi, 100 parents were sensitized to the importance and modalities of enrolling their children into primary school.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Enrollment** – 5,230 children in Meri and 640 in Biringi were in primary school age. During the first half of 2017, available funds only permitted to support 19% of these children. UNHCR and its partners were exploring ways to mobilize additional funds to support school fees, uniforms and school supplies. Moreover, UNHCR will construct 12 additional classrooms at the Meri and Biringi sites in 2017 as a response to the continuously increasing number of students.
- **Language courses** – The French classes, in which the refugee children acquire the necessary language skills to be able to integrate into the national schools, remained suspended in Meri due to lack of appropriate facilities. The four hangars which served as classrooms, 60 desks and benches and four blackboards were vandalized or stolen

due to the lack of available building material for shelter, and require urgent rehabilitation or replacement.



HEALTH

Achievements and Impact

- **Consultations** – Over 550 patients in Meri and 250 in Biringi underwent medical consultations during the week. In addition, 35 pregnant women benefited from prenatal examination and advice in Meri.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **HIV/AIDS** – The public health zones in which the Meri and Biringi sites are situated lack comprehensive HIV/AIDS competencies. Although all 140 refugees at the two sites who were previously identified as HIV-positive receive antiretroviral medication, HIV tests and prevention of transmission of the virus from mother to child are not available. Community agents, assisted by UNHCR's health partner ADES, are carrying out regular campaigns on the prevention of HIV transmission. During the reporting week, they distributed over 800 condoms at the two sites (552 male condoms in Biringi, 228 male condoms and 30 female condoms in Meri). Moreover, UNHCR advocated the expansion of the HIV/AIDS competences and services in the respective health zones with the local authorities and other organizations.



FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Achievements and Impact

- **Food distribution** – The World Food Programme (WFP) in collaboration with UNHCR distributed flour, beans, vegetable oil and salt to 1,700 refugees in Dungu and Duru. The distribution was underway in Bitima, Mogoroko and Doruma where over 7,500 refugees and asylum-seekers will be reached. In addition, 670 of the most vulnerable refugees in Meri were served 2,200 hot meals, and in Biringi 80 refugees received 350 meals.
- **Malnutrition** – 21 malnourished refugee children in Meri were recovered and the health status of another 17 improved from severely malnourished to moderately malnourished thanks to the consequent administration of food supplements through UNHCR's health partner. Since the beginning of 2017, 670 malnourished children recovered. At the time of reporting, 306 malnourished refugee children were registered in Meri; all of them received food supplements.

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

- **Water** – More than 25,000 water purification tablets were distributed in Biringi. Community health workers in Meri sensitized 420 refugees to personal hygiene and the correct use of mosquito nets to prevent diseases, as well as over 2,000 refugees to the importance of using latrines and avoid open air defecation.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Latrines** – 8,000 family latrines are urgently required in Meri and Biringi to prevent the spread of diseases accelerated through open air defecation. In 2017, UNHCR will build 800 additional latrines at the two sites.

**SHELTER AND NFIS****Achievements and Impact**

- **Dignity kits** – UNHCR's partner Caritas Mahagi-Nioka distributed dignity kits to all 730 women and girls in reproductive age at the Biringi site.
- **Cash distribution** – The WFP in collaboration with UNHCR distributed the monthly cash allowance of 16 USD per person to 7,840 families in Meri and 1,290 families in Biringi. UNHCR's social partner sensitized the refugees to budgeting the grants and facilitated several mediations to resolve disputes related to the use of the cash among couples.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Solar lamps** – Lighting is scarce at the Meri and Biringi sites. Solar lamps were distributed to 30% of the families in Biringi at the beginning of August. An additional 900 lamps are required for the remaining families. In Meri, distribution of solar lamps did not take place yet, 8,300 units are needed.

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) | 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)

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

