



SOUTH SUDAN - Regional Refugee Response Plan 2020 Mid Year Report

REGIONAL SITUATION OVERVIEW

The South Sudanese refugee response entered its seventh year in 2020. While there were some advances in the peace process, continued pockets of violence led to new arrivals of refugees in the neighboring countries. The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda continued to host over 2.2 million South Sudanese refugees as of 30 June 2020 – the largest refugee population in the region. South Sudanese refugees continued to receive refugee status on a prima facie status. The 2020-2021 South Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP) brings together 96 partners requesting USD 1.3 billion to meet the life-saving and resilience needs of South Sudanese refugees in the region. By June 2020, agencies had received USD 107.6 million, representing only 8 per cent of requirements (compared to 21 percent funding received by June 2019).

Refugees are hosted in camps, settlements and urban areas and are living in extremely precarious conditions, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Most refugees face high levels of poverty, limited access to livelihood opportunities, and are located in some of the poorest regions of host countries, where communities are already struggling to meet basic needs.

Between January and June 2020, some 1.63 million South Sudanese refugees received food assistance. Approximately 296,214 students were reached with distance learning programmes during to school closures, including 228,189 in Uganda; 38,155 in Ethiopia; 25,614 in Kenya and 4,256 in Sudan, amounting to 34% of South Sudanese refugee children. An additional 24,372 handwashing facilities were established and RRRP partners supported or established 134 health facilities for COVID-19 preparedness and response. However, significant underfunding and reprioritization to address the pandemic resulted in a substantial drop in livelihoods assistance, with the majority of South Sudanese refugee families remaining heavily dependent on humanitarian assistance. Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) prevention and response and child protection activities remained critically hampered by staff shortages and further stretched in response to lockdowns and other restrictions.

Photo Caption: Kenya. Food and relief items distributed during COVID-19 global pandemic. South Sudanese refugees practice social distancing as they wait to access a food distribution at Kakuma camp. © UNHCR/Samuel Otieno

2020 RESPONSE IN NUMBERS

2.25 M

SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEES
AS OF 30 JUNE 2020

USD 268.3M

FUNDING RECEIVED BY SEPT 2020
REPRESENTING 20% OF REQUIREMENTS



20,381

NEW SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEE
ARRIVALS IN 2020

95

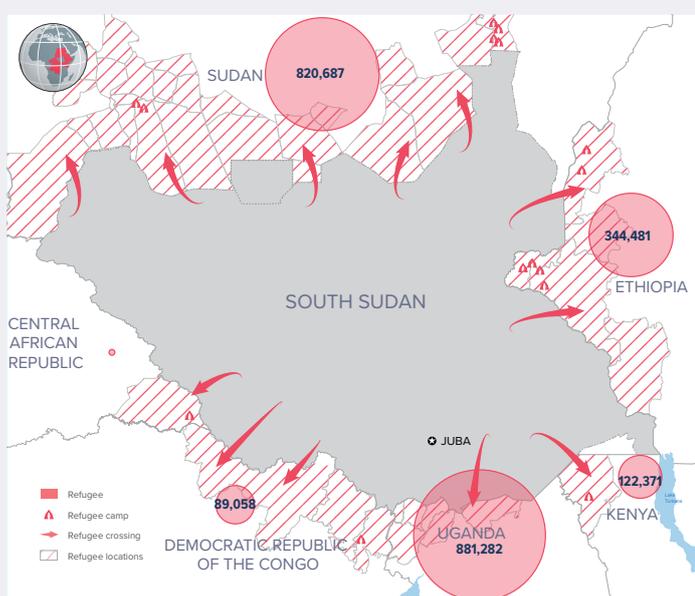
UN, INTERNATIONAL NGO AND
NATIONAL NGO PARTNERS INVOLVED

All five countries of asylum continued to advance the application of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) and the Global Compact on Refugees, with efforts to further integrate refugees into national and local development plans, as well as national health and education systems.

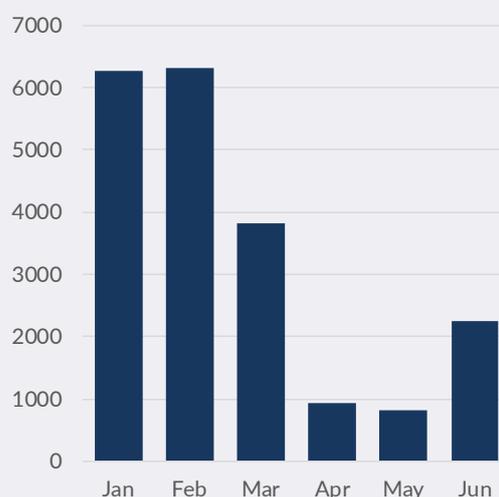
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SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEE POPULATION TRENDS

The South Sudanese refugee population remains the largest in the region. As of 30 June 2020, a total of 2.25 million South Sudanese refugees remained in exile in the five main host countries. Over 20,000 new arrivals were recorded in the first half of the year, compared to 54,000 in the same period in 2019 and 20,555 in the second half of 2019. The majority of refugees arrived in asylum countries in January to March before COVID-19 restrictions limited movement across the region. Uganda and Sudan continue to host the majority of the population, with 881,282 and 820,687 refugees respectively.



2020 Monthly Arrivals



2020 RRRP FUNDING

By September 2020, RRRP partners received over USD 280 million against the 2020 plan and would like to thank the many donors who have contributed both flexible and earmarked funds so far this year. While regionally, 21% of requirements have been received, at the country level, this varies from 38% of requirements in Sudan, to 10% in Ethiopia. Partners in the DRC have yet to report on funding status. A detailed breakdown of funding received by country and by partners is available online at the [Refugee Funding Tracker](#) (please navigate to the South Sudan RRRP and select 2020).

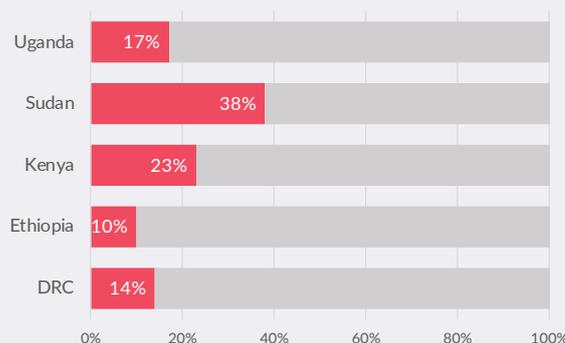
USD 280.3M

FUNDING RECEIVED FROM

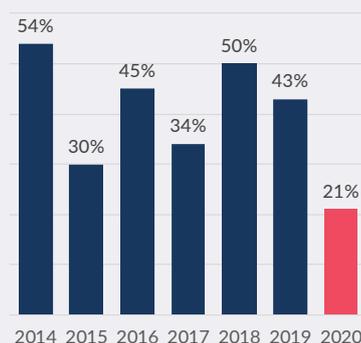
USD 1.3B

FUNDING REQUESTED IN 2020

Funding level by response country



Funding status in previous years





Above: Kenya. Food and relief items distributed during COVID-19 global pandemic South Sudanese refugees have their temperature taken before accessing a food distribution at Kakuma camp. © UNHCR/Samuel Otieno

COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

The COVID-19 pandemic poses significant challenges to South Sudanese refugees throughout the region, due to the population density in refugee camps, settlements and in urban settings, poor health and nutrition status and inadequate sanitary provisions and humanitarian assistance. The South Sudanese refugee population in the region remains the largest and one of the most vulnerable and fragile. As of June 2020, there had not been any major outbreak in any of the camps or settlements hosting South Sudanese refugees in the region, but the COVID-19 pandemic had yet to peak in any of the countries hosting South Sudanese refugees and is expected to be a key feature of the refugee response landscape well into 2021.

Activities prioritized in the ongoing COVID-19 response include health - including Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) – and WASH activities, upgrading of health facilities, setting up emergency shelters to ease congestion, construction of isolation centres, food pre-positioning and distributions, community mobilization and health awareness, protection monitoring and registration activities. Hygiene is being reinforced through additional hand washing facilities in all public spaces combined with increased distribution of soap, jerrycans and water supply to all refugees in camps and settlements, and often ensuring inclusion of host communities. Capacity building of the health workforce is another priority, especially strengthening the role of community-based health workers.

In addition, engaging host communities and strengthening social structures (local associations and community leaders) in risk communication has been critical for information dissemination and awareness raising.



1,132

South Sudanese refugees tested for COVID-19 by 30 June 2020



60

South Sudanese refugees tested positive for COVID-19, with 2 deaths reported



90%

of South Sudanese refugees and host communities reached with COVID-19 related messaging



134

health centres supported or established for COVID-19 response, as well as **57 isolation centres & 27 quarantine centres**



56%

of health staff participated in COVID-19 related trainings



24,372

additional handwashing facilities established across Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan & Uganda



17%*

of South Sudanese refugee students reached with **remote learning** (e.g. radio lessons, study packs etc.)



63,020

South Sudanese refugee households received **additional core relief items** as part of the COVID-19 response

Note: Data from the DRC unavailable for all indicators at the time of publishing. ** Data unavailable for Uganda

**82%**

South Sudanese refugees **individually registered**, against a target of 87% in 2020

**974**

identified **SGBV survivors assisted with appropriate support** (93%, against a target of 98%), up from 90% in 2019

**45,763**

South Sudanese refugee children with specific needs received **individual case management** (56%, against a target of 70%) up from 48% in 2019

**37,836**

refugee children **enrolled in Early Childhood Development programmes** (55%, maintaining 54% achievement of 2019)

**377,068**

refugee children **enrolled in primary school** (74%, against a target of 95%) up from 65% in 2019

**35,922**

refugee children **enrolled in secondary school** (16%, down slightly from 18% in 2019 and 24% in 2018)

**1.63 million**

South Sudanese refugees received **food assistance** in 2020 (representing 92% of refugees targeted for food assistance)

**14,231**

refugee women **delivered babies with assistance** from qualified health personnel (92%, up slightly from 90% in 2019)

The following provides a mid-year update on the eight key sectors for the South Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan.

PROTECTION

While RRRP partners were able to provide appropriate support to 93% of identified SGBV survivors, the number of SGBV cases reported among the South Sudanese refugee population dropped by 30% compared to the same period last year (from 1,511 to 1,045), raising concerns of increased under-reporting during the COVID-19 period. The decrease was more pronounced in Ethiopia (49%, from 147 to 75 cases).

RRRP partners continued to prioritize the child protection response, providing individual case management to 62% of children with specific protection needs, up from 48% in 2019. However, at the same time, the caseworker to child ratio has increased, from 1:43 in 2019 to 1:74 in 2020, undermining the quality of protection support provided to vulnerable refugee children.

In Ethiopia, child protection services were provided through trained child protection caseworkers and protection officers to promote family-based care for the high number of unaccompanied and separated children. Community-based child protection structures were strengthened to offer basic psychosocial support services to vulnerable children in their respective communities within the camps. An active joint Child Protection, SGBV and MHPSS working group enhanced coordination among protection partners and cooperation with other sectors, especially in response to COVID-19. Remote case management mechanisms and helpline numbers were activated in all locations. 185 South Sudanese refugees in Assosa were identified in need of resettlement, out of whom 109 were submitted to resettlement countries.

Across all the country operations, efforts have been made to engage community structures in actively disseminating information on the most prevalent SGBV incidents, reporting channels, existing hotlines and the referral pathways.

In Kenya, community messaging is also conveyed through local radio and placement of information, education, and communication materials to prevent SGBV risks. In Kakuma, a toll-free helpline (24 hours) is in place and all calls are being closely monitored using a tracker-shared tool. The toll-free number is shared within the community on posters, radio shows and cars going around the camps/settlement. In Dadaab, tracking of hotline activity is ongoing at the interagency level where data are analyzed jointly to establish the effectiveness of its use by the community. SGBV partners are working closely with health facilities on

¹ Indicators and information on the response in the DRC were unavailable at the time of publishing.

safe disclosure and referral of SGBV cases.

In Kenya, a total of 2,370 new arrivals from South Sudan were registered in the first half of 2020. UNHCR and partners developed and implemented innovative procedures to continue to conduct resettlement interviews remotely. 78 South Sudanese refugees were submitted for resettlement, and 102 refugees were assisted to access complementary pathways to third countries for admission to education.

In Uganda, a total of 6,407 newly arrived South Sudanese refugees were registered before the border closures in March. In the first half of 2020, RRRP partners provided psychosocial or psychological services to 29,141 South Sudanese refugees. The response was adapted after the enforcement of movement restrictions, including by setting up a multi-partner hotline for tele-psychosocial and psychological services. A COVID-19 Community Engagement Strategy was developed, outlining roles that communities can play in the delivery of critical services, and how they can be empowered to perform such roles.

In Sudan, case management and referral mechanisms were adapted at the start of the pandemic to ensure refugee children's continued access to protection services. In addition, mechanisms to prevent and respond to family separation as a result of COVID-19 were set up.

EDUCATION

Education partners reported increases in the number of South Sudanese children enrolled in ECD and primary school in early 2020. However, with the impact of COVID-19 leading to school closures from March in all asylum countries, there are now concerns that these gains will be wiped out, and many South Sudanese children will remain out of school when schools re-open. Despite a huge effort to roll out distance learning, only an estimated 17% of enrolled children were reached, with challenges in connectivity and access to radios severely limited in many locations.

In Ethiopia, RRRP partners, parenting groups and center facilitators supported Early Childhood Care and Education with home-based literacy and numeracy activities, and for primary education (Grades 1-8), radio and self-learning materials were provided in collaboration with the Regional Education Bureau.

Following the closure of schools in Kenya, an inter-agency education response plan was developed to provide for continuity of learning through educational materials from the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) for radio lesson broadcasts, partnership with local FM stations for daily five-hour radio lesson broadcast, procurement of radios and textbooks and sharing of available educational resources through community communication channels. These measures have contributed to learning continuity support for 25,614 refugee children in Kenya.



Sudan. South Sudanese refugee women await enrollment in the Global Distribution Tool system in late 2019. © UNHCR/Roland Schönbauer



53,022

refugees **received productive assets, training and / or business support** in 2019 (7% of refugees 18 - 59 years, down from 32% in 2019)



3,774

refugees **employed or self-employed in Ethiopia and Kenya** (0.5% of refugees 18 - 59 years, down from 19% in 2019)



63,425

refugee households live in **semi-permanent shelter in Ethiopia and Kenya**, (67%, down from 71% in 2019 in these two countries)



144,382

refugee households have a **household latrine** (43%, against a target of 65%) up from 29% in 2019



20.2 L

regional **average litres of water per person per day** (against a target and standard of 20L) up from 17L in 2019



58,317

refugee households have **energy saving stoves** (25%)

In Sudan, coordination between the Ministry of Education, both at Federal and State levels, and RRRP partners ensured that distance learning materials were available in various platforms and devices. However, the extent to which refugees benefited from this was limited given the lack of access to the devices required for this type of learning.

In Uganda, approximately 228,189 home learning packages, developed by the National Curriculum Development Centre (NCDC), were distributed by RRRP partners to refugee children in settlements hosting South Sudanese refugees.

Only 2,002 South Sudanese youth were enrolled in tertiary education.

FOOD SECURITY

By mid-2020, over 1.63 million South Sudanese refugees received food assistance, a slight increase from 1.62 million in 2019. Ration cuts in the region have heavily impacted the region though, with 72% of the 1.63 million receiving reduced rations (up from 47% receiving reduced rations in 2019).

At the onset of the pandemic, adjustments were made to the food distributions in Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19. RRRP partners adjusted food distribution protocols to prevent crowding and to observe physical distancing during the distribution exercise, with handwashing and improved sanitation in place.

In Kenya, the proportion of cash transfers provided to refugees was increased from 40 to 50% to increase the purchasing power of the refugees; however, food rations only met 70% of the minimum recommended amount.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Despite concerns that the COVID-19 response may discourage women from delivering at health facilities, RRRP partners were able to ensure 92% of birthing women delivered with the assistance of qualified health personnel, up slightly from 90% in 2019.

In Kenya, two isolation facilities with a bed capacity of 28 and three quarantine facilities with a bed capacity of 120 beds were established and are operational.

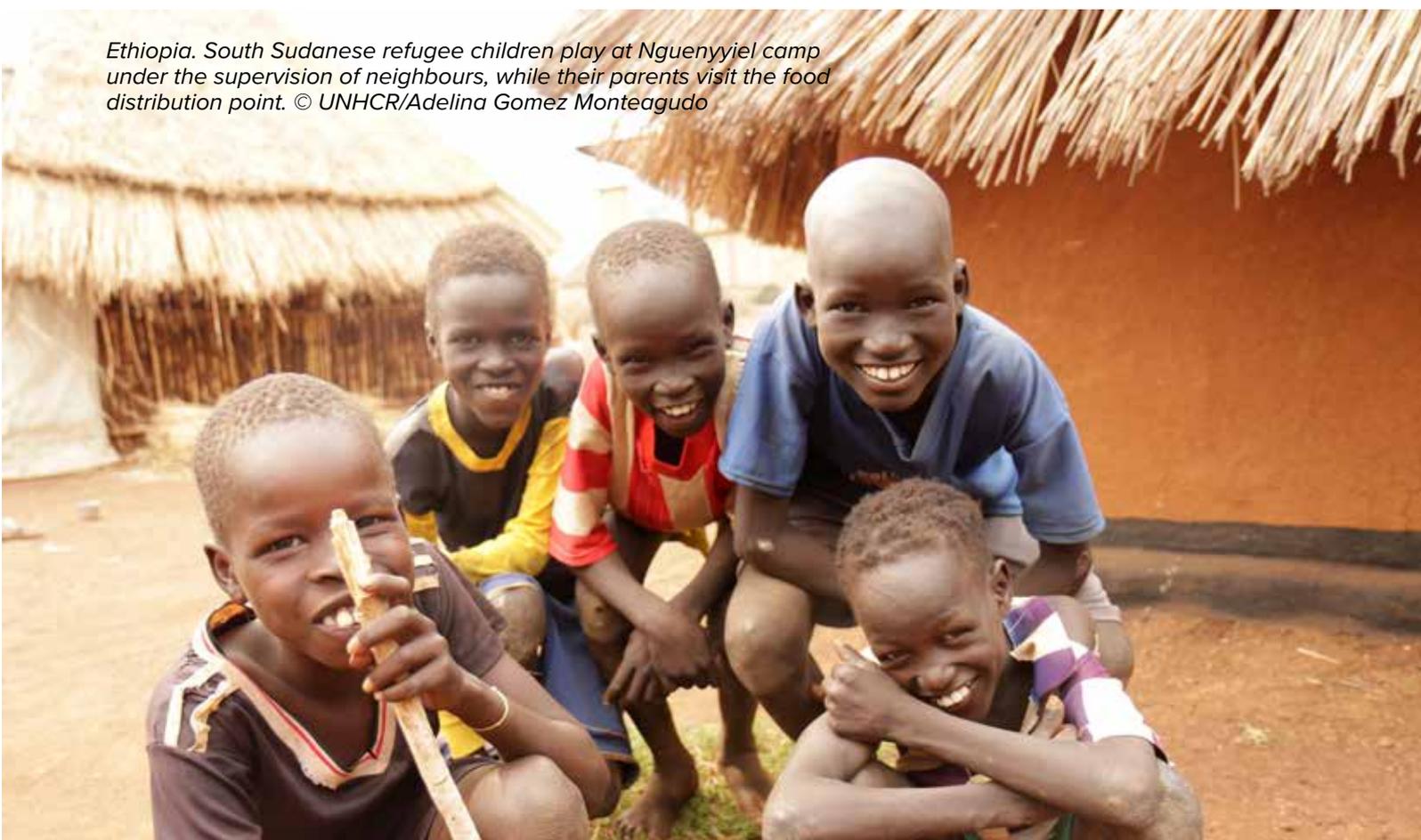
LIVELIHOODS

Livelihoods support was heavily impacted by reprioritization for the COVID-19 response, with many South Sudanese refugees losing their employment and the means by which they support their families. RRRP partners were able to provide productive assets, training and / or business support to 53,022 refugees in the first six months of 2020. However, this represents just 7 per cent of adult refugees (18 – 59 years old) and a 62% drop on the 139,000 refugees provided livelihoods support in 2019.

In Ethiopia, 6,483 refugees received cash grants and business development services for their microbusinesses to sustain trading and livelihood opportunities. Food security and nutrition-sensitive interventions were also implemented, including vegetable production activities, provision of small ruminants, provision of e-vouchers and aggregation of vendors of fresh food.

In Uganda, a major achievement was the cash-based

Ethiopia. South Sudanese refugee children play at Nguenyiel camp under the supervision of neighbours, while their parents visit the food distribution point. © UNHCR/Adelina Gomez Monteagudo



response to urban refugees in Kampala, providing unrestricted cash transfers via mobile money to cover the cost of rent, NFIs and food. A rapidly adapted Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) was developed to support cash response programme design in the settlements, including a specific MEB for urban response.

SHELTER AND NFIS

63,425 households live in semi-permanent shelter in Ethiopia and Kenya – representing 58% of the South Sudanese refugee population in Ethiopia and 96% in Kenya, with shelter coverage data unavailable for the other locations. In the first half of 2020, RRRP partners upgraded or repaired the shelters for 5,800 households in the region, the large majority (5,575) in Sudan.

In Ethiopia, construction of five communal accommodation hangers, two facility hangers for a clinic and nutrition center, and 50 emergency shelters were completed at Pagak Reception Center to reduce overcrowding and provide accommodation to new arrivals.

In Kenya, a total of 874 households converted their 1,149 transitional shelters to permanent houses through cash-based interventions, as a result of which 3,463 households are now living in permanent shelters.

In Uganda, all new refugees who arrived in the settlements before the closure of the borders at the end of March received emergency shelter kits and were allocated a plot of land.

50% of households in Ethiopia, Kenya and Sudan have adequate non-food items (NFIs).

WASH

RRRP partners prioritized a number of WASH interventions in the first half of 2020 to enhance COVID-19 prevention and response. Access to water increased to a regional average of 20.4L per person per day, up from 17L at the end of last year and 16.8L in mid-2019. Over 188,000 South Sudanese families received increased amounts of soap in Ethiopia, Kenya and Sudan.

In Kenya, through intensive consultation with county and national government, RRRP partners developed a national WASH strategy to achieve universal access to basic sanitation to fit the context of refugee communities. Through partnership with county and national government to adapt Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS), Government engagement has been strengthened in sanitation and hygiene programming and implementation.

In Sudan, (South Kordofan State), one haffir (water catchment basin) was upgraded to provide safe drinking water to over 25,000 refugees and host communities, contributing to strengthening peaceful coexistence



Democratic Republic of the Congo. Chris, a South Sudanese refugee, uses a handwashing station which he made himself using wood, an old jerry can and rope as a prevention measure to curb the spread of COVID-19 in Bele settlement, Haut Uele province. © UNHCR/Jean-Jacques Soha

between both population groups, improving water quality and health conditions, as well as reducing protection risks, such as sexual and gender-based violence.

In Uganda, in the context of the Covid-19 response, longer pumping hours were established at water points to increase supply in the settlements hosting South Sudan refugees.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

RRRP partners provided monthly fuel for over 29,000 South Sudanese refugee households in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda. Some 716 hectares of land has been reforested in refugee locations across the region; however, this represents a 75 per cent decrease on the 2,911 hectares reforested by June 2019. Likewise, only 511,572 tree seedlings have been planted, down from 720,455 seedlings planted in the first half of 2019.

In Assosa, Ethiopia, a mixed approach was implemented to provide refugees with alternative sources of energy for cooking, and at the same time mitigate degradation of the natural environment. As part of this initiative, several

GLOBAL COMPACT ON REFUGEES/REFUGEE INCLUSION

In Ethiopia, the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) commitments include local integration of refugees in protracted situations, providing opportunities for improved socio-economic integration. The Ethiopian Government made nine pledges to comprehensively respond to refugee needs and has prepared a roadmap detailing the implementation of each pledge, outlining key opportunities and partnerships that must be put in place. RRRP partners continued to engage in sustainable livelihood interventions aiming to enhance refugee and host community resilience and self-reliance. The interventions focused on vocational and entrepreneurship skills training, development of the agricultural sector, supporting fishermen and women with proper equipment, providing beneficiaries with business management trainings, and supporting refugees and host communities with cash grants for establishing small-scale businesses. UNHCR is exploring the expansion of Cash Based Interventions (CBI) in lieu of CRIs, following successful pilot interventions in several refugee settings in Ethiopia.

Application of the CRRF in Uganda places a strong focus on self-reliance of refugees and host communities and strengthening local service delivery for both. During the Global Refugee Forum held in Geneva in December 2019, the Government of Uganda issued pledges in regards to maintaining the open door policy; promotion of access, quality and inclusiveness of the national education and health system; sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems; inclusion of refugees into national development plans and national statistical systems; and ensuring the integrity of the asylum system. The Refugee Engagement Forum (REF), a novel national refugee platform brings together refugee leaders from all settlements and Kampala, thereby ensuring that refugees play a central and vital role in the refugee response. The Government of Uganda has included refugees in its national and district development planning.

The Government of Kenya made three strategic GRF pledges that build on ongoing GCR-related activities on protection, education and solutions. In the area of education, several partners are working closely with the Ministry of Education on the inclusion of refugees and asylum seekers in the national education system, including the development of policy, planning, budgeting and resource mobilization.

resources were provided such as charcoal briquettes, communal kitchens and firewood. An economic inclusion pilot project was initiated through an agricultural assistance program in two camps, which supported 2,663 refugee households and 875 households from the host community. In Uganda, 38,452 youth were recruited, trained and engaged in establishment and maintenance of woodlots in Kiryandongo, Imvepi and Rhino camp using the cash for work modality.

REGIONAL COORDINATION

In close collaboration with host governments, UNHCR leads and coordinates the response to the South Sudan refugee situation in each affected country following the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM). Technical meetings are organized by sector at the local level and in the respective capitals.

Regional coordination of the South Sudan situation is undertaken by the UNHCR's Bureau for the East and Horn of Africa, and the Great Lakes in Nairobi. Consultations on response priorities, joint advocacy and resource mobilization for the 2020 RRRP will continue to be areas of focus with RRRP partners at regional level.

The Regional Child Protection Network (RCPN), coordinated by UNHCR, and the Education in Emergencies Network (EiEN), coordinated by UNHCR and Save The Children, are interagency networks convened in Nairobi with partners who are working across the region, to support cohesive, inter-agency child protection and education responses at the field-level through technical support, capacity-building, promotion of learning, joint analysis, and advocacy.

The coordination of cash transfers in each country is done through joint assessment, monitoring and a dedicated working group to determine the best transfer mechanisms and ensure linkages with different sectors.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

South Sudan Data Portal - <https://data.unhcr.org/southsudan> **Ms. Catherine Wiesner** Head of External Engagement wiesner@unhcr.org; **Simone Schwartz-Delgado** Snr Inter-Agency Coordination Officer schwartz@unhcr.org; **Kabami Kalumiya**, Reporting Officer kalumiya@unhcr.org; **Laura Swanson**, Info. Management Officer swanson@unhcr.org

REGIONAL RRP PARTNERS

- Action Africa Help International
- Action contre la Faim
- Action for Social Development and Environmental Protection Organization
- Action For The Needy In Ethiopia
- Adventist Development and Relief Agency
- African Humanitarian Aid and Development Agency
- African Women and Youth Action for Development
- Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development
- Al Manar Voluntary Organization
- American Refugee Committee
- Association for Aid and Relief, Japan
- Association of Volunteers in International Service
- Bethany Christian Service Global, LLC
- Building Resources Across Communities
- Care and Assistance For Forced Migrants
- CARE International
- Caritas Uganda
- Catholic Agency for Overseas Development
- Catholic Organization for Relief and Development Aid
- Catholic Relief Services
- Concern WorldWide
- Cooperazione e Sviluppo
- Cooperazione Internazionale
- DanChurchAid
- Danish Refugee Council
- Don Bosco
- Doctors with Africa
- Enabel
- Ethiopian Orthodox Church Development And Interchurch Aid
- Commission Refugee And Returnee Affairs Department
- Film Aid International
- Finn Church Aid
- Finnish Refugee Council
- Food and Agriculture Organization
- Food for the Hungry
- Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit
- Global Aid Hand
- GOAL
- Help Age International
- Humane Africa Mission
- Humanity & Inclusion
- Impact Initiatives
- Inter-church Organization for Development Cooperation
- International Aid Services
- International Medical Corps
- International Organization for Migration
- International Rescue Committee
- Islamic Relief Worldwide
- IsraAid
- Jesuit Refugee Service
- Johanniter
- Kenya Red Cross Society
- LKAD
- Lutheran World Federation
- Lutheran World Relief
- Malteser International
- Medical Teams International
- Mercy Corps
- Nada El-Azahar Organization
- National Council of Churches of Kenya
- Norwegian Church Aid
- Norwegian Refugee Council
- Oxfam
- Peace Winds Japan
- Plan International
- Prime Skills Foundation
- Refugee Consortium of Kenya
- Relief International
- Right to Play
- Samaritan's Purse
- Save the Children International
- Self Help Africa
- SNV NDO
- TPO Uganda
- Trocaire
- Tutapona Trauma Rehabilitation
- Uganda Red Cross Society
- Uganda Women for Water and Sanitation
- UMORD
- United Nations Development Programme
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
- United Nations Office for Project Services
- United Nations Population Fund
- United Peace Organization
- UNWOMEN
- War Child Canada
- War Child Holland
- Water Mission Uganda
- Welthungerhilfe
- WIK
- Windle International Uganda
- World Food Programme
- World Health Organization
- World Vision International
- ZOA