SOUTH SUDAN
REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN
JANUARY – DECEMBER 2024

CREDITS:

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For more information on the South Sudan crisis go to: South Sudan Information Sharing Portal

FRONT COVER PHOTOGRAPH:
In Sudan, the rainy season in White Nile contributes to additional pressure on services in camps, challenges movements by residents and responding partners alike, and contributes to heightened susceptibility of vector borne disease outbreaks. © UNHCR/ Isadora C. S. Zone

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Foreword

The 2024 Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) marks a decade of plans addressing the South Sudan refugee crisis. The first plan was launched in 2014, in response to violence that erupted two years after the birth of the independent nation of South Sudan. It had a target population of 715,000 refugees. A decade later, millions of South Sudanese are still refugees, primarily in the DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, and Uganda. This demands our humble reflection on the 10 years of coordinated action in support of South Sudanese refugees.

As I introduce this comprehensive strategy aimed at addressing the pressing needs of over 2.3 million South Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers, along with the approximately 2.38 million members of host communities residing across the five asylum countries, a few things are apparent; firstly, this plan is not merely a document, it is a testament to our collective commitment to upholding the rights and dignity of forcibly displaced individuals and communities. The 2024 plan embodies a collaborative effort involving 123 partners, including United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations, and civil society actors.

Secondly, in the complex and protracted South Sudan crisis, a regional approach is not just advantageous, it is imperative. It fosters shared responsibility and coordinates responses among Governments, donors and the responding agencies by promoting consistent and comprehensive support for refugees across borders, mitigating tensions and promoting stability between host communities and refugees. Incrementally, it is allowing refugees to contribute to the socio-economic growth of the communities that host them. It has also been instrumental in facilitating the exploration of durable solutions for refugees, including voluntary repatriation, resettlement and inclusion into national systems. Regional initiatives led by organizations such as the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the East African Community (EAC) have offered avenues for advancing regional solutions and promoting the integration of refugees into national systems.

While significant strides and commendable efforts have been made over the last 10 years by RRP partners, challenges persist. The ongoing civil conflict in South Sudan, compounded by climate change-induced disasters, food insecurity, and prolonged economic decline, continues to drive displacement and exacerbate humanitarian needs. The voluntary return of South Sudanese refugees has been an option for only a few, and the majority remain in asylum. Chronic underfunding threatens to undermine our ability to deliver lifesaving assistance and protection.

However, amidst these challenges lie opportunities for progress. The recent commitments made by the Governments, humanitarian and development partners, and the private sector at the Global Refugee in 2023 signify the growing commitment to solutions and inclusive peacebuilding, which raises hope that more refugees can lead productive lives.

As we embark on the implementation of the 2024 RRP, let us reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the principle of solidarity and our duty to stand with those forced to flee their homes. By working together, we can mitigate the suffering of millions and pave the way for solutions for South Sudanese.

Stronger together.

Dr. Mamadou Dian Balde
Regional Refugee Coordinator for the Sudan Situation

Regional Planned Response

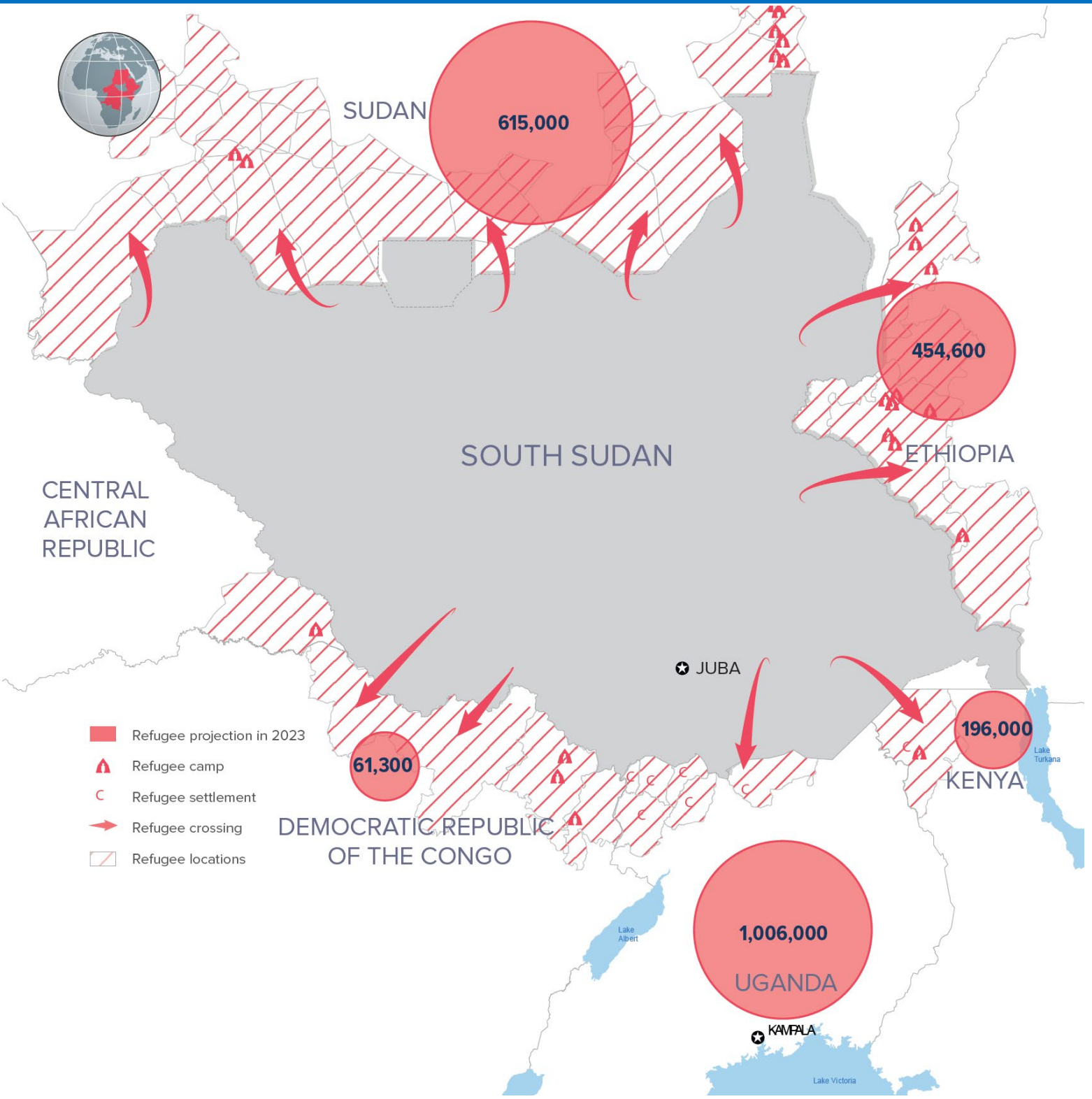
January-December 2024

2.33 M
Projected refugee population

2.38 M
Assisted host community population

USD 1.4 B
Total financial requirements

123*
Partners



The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

* *UN agencies and some INGOs are operational in more than one country and are therefore counted only once as a member of the Regional Refuge Response Plan as opposed to an aggregate total across countries which reflects 173 partners.*

Region	Financial requirements in USD	Partners involved [1]
DRC	30,022,881	2
Ethiopia	245,122,514	23
Kenya	134,063,006	22
Sudan	487,632,908	36
Uganda	502,834,040	90

Regional Overview

Executive Summary

The 2024 South Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) is a collective, multisectoral endeavour involving 123 partners, including United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other civil society actors. It is designed to address the complex needs of over 2.3 million South Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers alongside approximately 2.38 million members of host communities in five asylum countries: the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, and Uganda.

Aligned with the Refugee Coordination Model, the RRP offers a cohesive approach, integrating individual country plans while maintaining a regional outlook on protection risks, vulnerabilities, and critical needs. The strategy is anchored in core national and regional policies, centring on four main objectives for refugees and asylum seekers: maintaining access to territory and to the right to seek and enjoy asylum and enhancing the protection environment and the realization of the rights; providing quality, efficient and timely protection and other multisectoral assistance; inclusion into national systems and enhancing durable solutions. A commitment to enhancing accountability to affected people and protecting refugees from sexual exploitation, abuse, and other risks is a cornerstone of the RRP.

Covering nine sectors, the plan includes coordinated activities in protection, including gender-based violence (GBV) and child protection, education, food security, public health and nutrition, livelihoods and economic inclusion, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), settlement and shelter/housing and basic needs, and logistics and operational support. Each sector's approach is tailored to the unique context of the respective countries. The regional chapter also outlines the cross-cutting themes of age, gender and diversity, which includes disability inclusion and youth, the theme of accountability to affected people, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, localization, climate action and cash assistance. Given the urgent need for energy and the environmental impact, the related budget implications have been indicated alongside the sectors. The regional chapter provides an overarching summary of the overall protection risks analysis, the strategy and the related sector interventions, underscoring collaborative efforts, coordination, and financial needs. The plan's country-specific responses are further detailed in individual country chapters.

Part 1: Current Situation

Situation Overview

South Sudan's displacement crisis is one of Africa's most significant in recent times, with 2,278,420 million refugees spread across neighbouring countries (the DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, and Uganda) and another 2.2 million internally displaced within South Sudan. As of 31 December 2023, Uganda hosted 41 per cent of the South Sudanese refugees

[1] UN agencies and some INGOs are operational in more than one country and are therefore counted only once as a member of the Regional Refuge Response Plan as opposed to an aggregate total across countries which reflects 173 partners.

in the region, Sudan hosted 30 per cent, Ethiopia hosted 18.5 per cent, Kenya hosted 8 per cent, and the DRC, 2.5 per cent of the refugees.

The crisis has been fuelled by a prolonged and brutal civil war, further compounded by the impacts of climate change and food insecurity. In particular, four consecutive years of flooding have destroyed homes and livelihoods, exacerbated food shortages and weakened the economy. The majority of the South Sudanese refugees considered in this plan have been in asylum for over a decade, evidence of the deep-rooted and longstanding nature of the crisis and resulting displacement.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda, have implemented varying protection regimes to receive South Sudanese refugees. Uganda stands out for its progressive approach, offering prima facie refugee status to South Sudanese, which allows for immediate recognition of refugee status without individual adjudication, in addition to granting significant rights like access to land and services. Ethiopia and Kenya have also extended prima facie status to South Sudanese refugees, providing immediate protection and support. However, in 2023, the Government of Ethiopia issued a communication reconsidering the prima facie status for the South Sudanese from Pochalla county resulting in a caseload of South Sudanese asylum seekers pending resolution of their case. The DRC, facing its own internal challenges, has a more complex and less uniform approach, often requiring individual adjudication. Sudan has complex historical relations with South Sudan and offers a mix of prima facie recognition, allowing many South Sudanese to reside in the country without officially being registered as refugees.

On solutions, the period between 2021 and 2022 saw the self-organized return of 525,360 South Sudanese refugees mainly from Uganda (255,000). In 2023, 527,206 spontaneous returns recorded mainly from Sudan (399,000) with a spike from April 2023 due to the crisis in Sudan. In December, there were 53,408 returns despite the adverse conditions in South Sudan. As the conflict in Sudan persists, this trend of high return rates might continue into 2024. These recent returns, often hasty and unplanned, confront returnees with the dire humanitarian and developmental challenges in South Sudan. Nine million South Sudanese require humanitarian aid, with ongoing insecurity and climate-related challenges like flooding[2]. In 2021, only 1,015 South Sudanese were resettled to third countries, and in 2022, this number decreased slightly to 994 individuals, representing less than 1 per cent of the global resettlement admissions.

Regional efforts to address the South Sudan displacement crisis involve the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the East African Community (EAC). These organizations are key in advocating for the integration of refugees into national systems and exploring regional solutions. This includes promoting local solutions for the protracted displacement of South Sudanese refugees, with consideration also for the needs of the hosting communities, such as the Shirika Plan in Kenya[3]. The joint initiative by IGAD and EAC of June 2023 at Munyonyo, Uganda, saw a landmark Ministerial Declaration aimed at fast-track solutions for refugees within the East and Horn of Africa region. The Declaration intensified the current dialogue for progressive asylum and solutions in the East and Horn of Africa region by reinforcing and aligning regional policy frameworks on refugee protection and solutions. Tangible requisite actions, however, are yet to be taken to translate the Munyonyo policy declarations into measurable regional results for refugees. A priority is the pending adoption of the EAC draft Regional Refugee Management Policy, which would usher in progressive regional asylum and solutions frameworks and possibilities for freedom of movement, local integration and commitment to sustainable return within the EAC. South Sudan will become the chair of IGAD in July 2024, presenting an opportunity to continue championing solutions for the displaced. It should also be noted that at the Global Refugee Forum in December 2023, the Government of South Sudan committed "…*by 2027 to creating enabling*

[2] Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2024 (Issued November 2023) https://reliefweb.int/attachments/a31b662f-3a02-4790-a09b-39adce6a74bc/South_Sudan_HNRP_2024.pdf

[3] The Shirika Plan is the Government of Kenya's new approach towards refugee management in Kenya aimed at transforming the refugee camps into integrated settlements supporting the socioeconomic inclusion of refugees and hosting communities in Garissa, Turkana, and urban areas.

conditions for sustainable returns of South Sudanese, enhancing peacebuilding, and provision of basic services through inclusive re/integration and participation of refugees, returnees, IDPs, and host communities…".[4]

Unfortunately, the situation in South Sudan remains a humanitarian crisis with violence, conflict, and insecurity aggravated by the adverse effects of climate change, triggering recurrent hydrological hazards and high levels of food insecurity. As a result, most South Sudanese refugees will likely remain in countries of asylum through 2024 and beyond, with numbers that may even increase by as many as 50,000 due to both natural population growth and the possibility of increased civil conflict. Unfortunately, most organizations have been affected by chronic underfunding and scaled back their budgets for 2024 despite massive needs across the population.

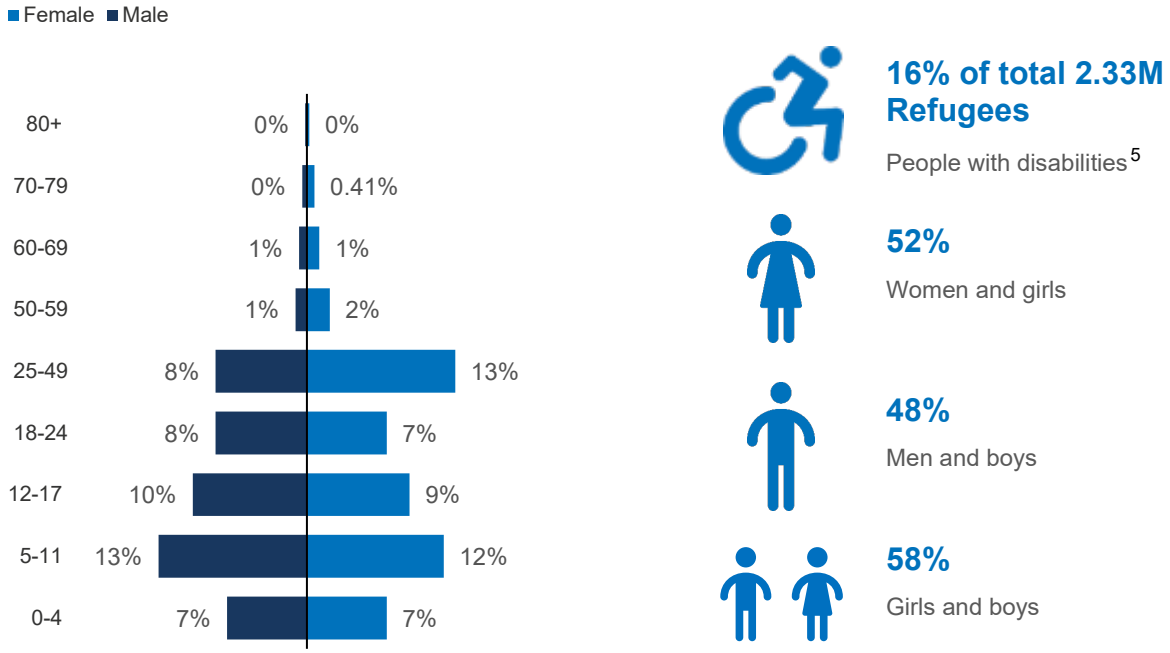
Population Planning Figures

Country	Population as of end of 2023	Planned Population as of end of 2024
Targeted Refugee Population		
DRC	58,800	61,300
Ethiopia	424,550	454,600
Kenya	173,350	196,000
Sudan	706,720	615,000
Uganda	915,000	1,006,000
Total	**2,278,420**	**2,332,900**

Country	Population as of end of 2023	Planned Population as of end of 2024
Targeted Host Population		
DRC	11,760	300,000
Ethiopia	169,000	445,700
Kenya	88,197	45,000
Sudan	94,700	82,000
Uganda	1,500,000	1,509,800
Total	**1,863,657**	**2,382,500**

[4] South Sudan GRF 2023 Revised and New Pledges https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/105181

Age and gender breakdown



Part 1: Regional Risks and Needs

The risks and needs are relatively common across the five countries, with a few contextual differences, such as armed groups impacting the security situation in some asylum countries and the gravity of floods and drought, which worsen protection and health risks. The region has an average of 58 per cent of children in the population, which underscores the critical aspect of vulnerability and specific needs of young refugees signalling a pressing need for targeted humanitarian assistance and protection measures. In Uganda, the child refugee population is at 62 per cent. Furthermore, the gendered demography and continued traditional gendered roles also highlight risks exacerbated by prolonged displacement, exposure to violence, and climate shocks amidst a backdrop of resource scarcity. The gender dynamics highlight the need for targeted support around child protection, youth, gender-based violence (GBV) and gender equality programming.

In the DRC, South Sudanese refugees are concentrated in the northern regions, notably Ituri and Haut-Uele, and many face protection risks resulting from the ongoing insecurity and active conflict threatening the protection of the overall civilian population. The continuous exposure to GBV, including conflict-related sexual violence, continues to represent a critical risk requiring prompt and effective response. The need for access to basic services, such as education, healthcare, and livelihood, affects the overall well-being of the population.

In Ethiopia, South Sudanese refugees mainly reside in the Gambella region, while limited numbers are also hosted in the Benishangul Gumuz region. The two refugee camps in Tongo and Gure Shambola were closed in February 2022 due to insecurity, resulting in the relocation of refugees to three other camps in the Benishangul-Gumuz Region. The relocation has put enormous pressure on available services, particularly WASH, within the camp. In addition, between September and December 2023, more than 7,450 South Sudanese refugees arrived in the Gambella region due to the

[5] The global estimate is that 16 per cent of the population is expected to have a disability. https://www.who.int/teams/noncommunicable-diseases/sensory-functions-disability-and-rehabilitation/global-report-on-health-equity-for-persons-with-disabilities

conflict in Pochalla county, Boma State, in South Sudan. Food insecurity is of particular concern, aggravated by reduced food rations across the region in 2023, contributing to increased malnutrition, especially among children.

In Sudan, after having generously hosted refugees for many years, the country faces a severe protection crisis in which refugees are caught up in the war, with some having been killed and others having to return prematurely to their country of origin to avoid the conflict or relocating to the already overcrowded camps in White Nile State. South Sudanese, along with Sudanese nationals, faced threats to life due to the widespread violations of International Humanitarian Law by parties to the conflict. The refugees have been repeatedly displaced, with consequent loss of properties and assets, and the risk of physical harm during perilous journeys towards South Sudan. Many of them have mental health needs caused by the of distress of witnessing or surviving violence, harm, loss and deprivation. Refugees have been impacted by the complete breakdown of social safety nets, various forms of community support, and the common situation of involuntary family separation. The situation was particularly dire for refugee children with alarming malnutrition rates, as indicated by the Standardised Expanded Nutrition Survey and mid-upper arm circumference data from 2022 and 2023. This situation deteriorated in the White Nile refugee camps between May and September due to disease outbreaks, and the population suffered over 1,200 child deaths related to communicable diseases, malnutrition and other causes. Sudan has been grappling with multiple disease outbreaks, including measles, malaria, dengue, and cholera, highlighting a critical need for enhanced health and nutrition services. With the populations being dependent on irregular and scarce food assistance, harmful coping strategies often generate protection risks, including child labour and the sale and exchange of sex.

The region in general, has supported integration into national systems including improving livelihoods and self-reliance but this remains a work in progress as the countries of asylum face their own development and security challenges. In Kenya, integration into national systems and access to services such as healthcare and education has progressed, particularly within the framework of the integrated socioeconomic development plans in Garissa and Turkana Counties and the ongoing developments on the Government of Kenya's Shirika Plan. However, challenges remain, particularly regarding the full inclusion of refugees in national social protection, education, and livelihoods programmes. In Uganda, the Government continues to implement progressive refugee policies, allowing South Sudanese refugees access to land and to basic services, but the impact is reduced as a result of inadequate resources.

In the region, the RRP partners in the WASH, and shelter, settlement and housing sectors, have struggled to meet the standards of assistance for refugees as the services required expansion and maintenance, without which there was an increased risk for disease outbreaks. In addition, the limited capacity to address the environmental impact of displacement was seen by the continued dependency on firewood for cooking, which also contributed to physical protection risks as women and girls continued to forage for it further and further from the settlements.

While the governments in the region are supportive of maintaining access to territory and services, the needs remain high and not adequately met due to a lack of resources. The 2023 South Sudan RRP was only 18 per cent funded, limiting the capacity of the RRP partners to respond according to plans. Moreover, increased new arrivals of refugees of different nationalities in 2022 and 2023 have further strained existing services for refugees in asylum countries. For example, Uganda received over 55,000 refugees from the DRC, Eritrea, and Sudan in 2023.

While limited financial resources for humanitarian programmes remain the largest impediment to the response, other challenges persist. In 2024, insecurity may be a concern in the run-up to South Sudan's first elections since independence. Furthermore, as the conflict in Sudan continues, it will have broader implications for regional cooperation, security, and solutions for refugee populations living in protracted situations.

In 2024, it is anticipated that more than 500,000 additional South Sudanese (registered refugees, migrants and others) in **Sudan** may return to South Sudan. UNHCR has conservatively estimated that more than 250,000 South Sudanese refugees will have resettlement needs in 2024, while additional complementary pathways for admission to third countries will continue to be strategically important in terms of durable solutions and sharing international responsibility for refugee

protection.[6] Without such opportunities, South Sudanese refugees will continue to require access to humanitarian assistance, including protection, education, healthcare, clean water, sanitation, and long-term solutions promoting economic opportunities.

The 2024 RRP underscores the continued need for international support for sustainable solutions. While some regions are transitioning towards more integrated and self-reliant approaches, others grapple with basic humanitarian needs amid security and infrastructure challenges. It is incumbent upon host countries, humanitarian organizations, development partners and the private sector to rally together in coordinated efforts to meet the immediate needs of refugees and contribute to lasting solutions for refugees from South Sudan.

Part 2: Regional Protection and Solutions Strategy

The prolonged displacement of South Sudanese across the region requires immense humanitarian assistance and support for host countries, and leveraging pledges made at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum. In 2024, the South Sudan RRP requires USD 1.4 Billion for 123 partners to assist 4.7 million refugees and host community members to pursue the following five core strategic objectives:

SO1: Maintaining access to territory and to the right to seek and enjoy asylum, enhancing the protection environment and the realization of the rights of refugees and asylum-seekers.

It is paramount to maintain asylum space according to international protection standards and ensure the delivery of humanitarian assistance. RRP partners will continue to work with governments to improve the protection environment for asylum-seekers and refugees through improved identity management, strengthened national asylum systems, and regional approaches to ensure that access to asylum and documentation is maintained, including ensuring that systems and procedures consider the specific age, gender and diversity characteristics of refugees.

SO2: Providing quality, efficient and timely protection and other multisectoral assistance to refugees, asylum-seekers and to the most vulnerable host communities.

The needs of refugees cut across a range of sectors, and to protect the rights of refugees, these needs must be addressed promptly and efficiently with quality services. Otherwise, refugees who were already vulnerable due to the impact of the conflict suffer assistance-related risks and reduced resilience. Protection and multisectoral assistance include among others prevention, risk mitigation and response to GBV and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, child protection, support to civil documentation notably birth registration, and enhancing Accountability to Affected People.

SO3: Including South Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers into national systems.

Promoting the inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers into national systems, including for child protection, access to justice, physical and social protection, education, health, and the economy through strategic engagement with governments, the private sector, regional bodies and development actors. Advocating for measures allowing refugees to exercise greater self-reliance and resilience, including economic mobility, will be critical.

SO4: Enhancing durable solutions for refugees and asylum-seekers including opportunities for resettlement and complementary pathways for admission to third countries.

To achieve durable solutions for South Sudanese refugees, RRP partners will strengthen coordination with national and regional structures to mobilize international support for solutions from the outset of displacement and through a strengthened humanitarian-peace-development nexus.

[6] https://reporting.unhcr.org/unhcr-projected-global-resettlement-needs-2024

Regional Cross-Cutting Response Priorities

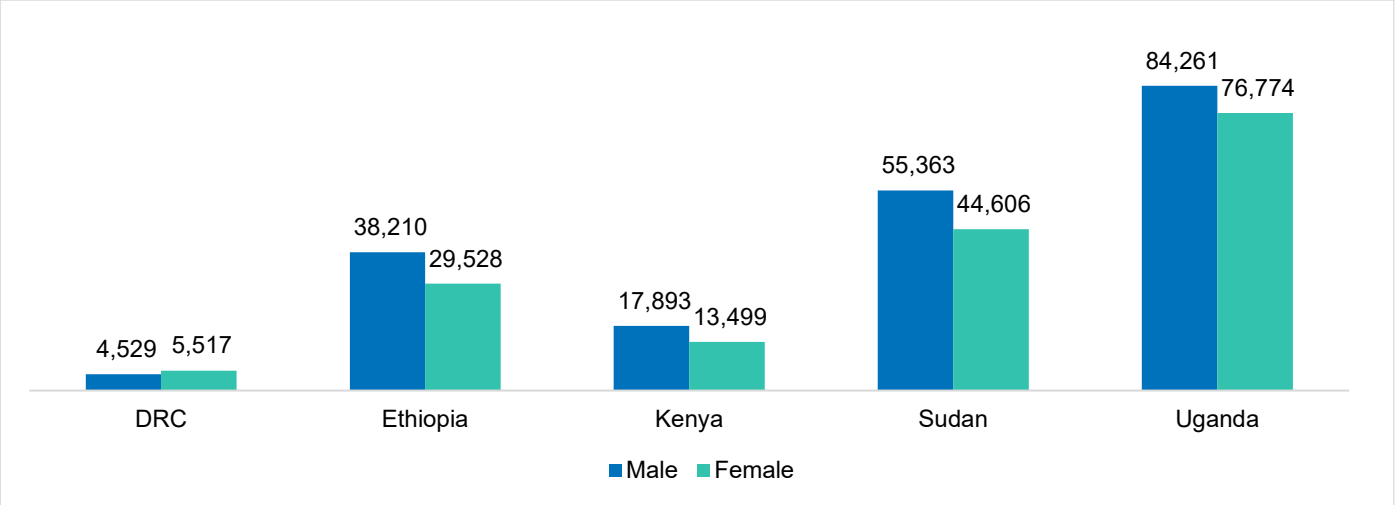
Age, gender, and diversity (AGD)

RRP partners will incorporate age, gender, and diversity (AGD) considerations throughout the RRP cycle, when analyzing, planning, implementing and monitoring activities. This will include efforts to: capture age and sex-disaggregated data in assessments, monitoring and reporting; consult with a variety of profiles to make sure that all voices in the community contribute to define risks and needs; and implement a response that addresses the specific needs of diverse groups among the South Sudanese refugees. This approach involves including AGD considerations across all sectors of the response, assessing the unique needs and strengths of groups of all age, genders, and diverse characteristics. The RRP emphasizes inclusive participation, ensuring that the voices of women, children, older people, and marginalized groups are heard and integrated into decision-making processes. This approach improves equitable access to resources and services, recognizing and addressing power imbalances and vulnerabilities while promoting the rights and dignity of all individuals affected by the crisis.

Sub-Section: Disability Inclusion

Global estimates (WHO) indicate that 16 per cent of people may have diverse forms of disabilities. In the South Sudan situation, characterized by a history of violence and conflict, this value may be an underestimate. It is imperative for partners to prioritize collecting accurate disability disaggregated data to represent individuals with impairments and the barriers they face in accessing services. Training will be conducted on disability-inclusive programming to improve the systematic integration of disability inclusion across sectors and improve access to services in areas like WASH, health, nutrition, protection, and education. This will require consultations with people with disabilities to better understand their needs, barriers and the solutions they recommend. The RRP partners will also leverage the Regional Working Group on Disability Inclusion in order to strengthen partnerships with the vibrant disability movements in the countries and this will be crucial for sustainable inclusion efforts.

People with Disabilities



Sub-Section: Youth

The South Sudan Regional RRP will consider approaches that mainstream youth engagement in programming[7] and apply a youth-inclusive approach. The RRP will also build on the RRP partner capacity to implement dedicated interventions in favour of youth, emphasizing the empowerment and engagement of young refugees. The interventions will build on youth-related Global Refugee Forum pledges made since 2019 in the areas of livelihoods, empowerment, sports, and education. Mental health has already been identified as a priority among South Sudanese in the region. Youth will be involved in decision-making processes, acknowledging their distinct needs and role as agents of change. Critical programmatic areas include access to education, skills development, and livelihood opportunities, essential for the growth and development of young refugees. The overall approach will encourage active youth participation in community activities and leadership roles, nurturing a sense of community and purpose. Moreover, it will aim to address the unique challenges faced by young refugees, offering specialized support to help them navigate obstacles and build a hopeful and positive future. South Sudanese refugee youth are currently involved in a multi- year, regional peace-building project in Uganda and South Sudan[8] to build a regional network of youth peacebuilders and increase their capacity to contribute to peaceful coexistence in countries of asylum and countries of origin.

Accountability to Affected People (AAP)

The Regional AAP Working Group will support the work of RRP partners and of the country working groups. RRP partners will promote the active participation and inclusion of diverse South Sudanese refugees – men, women, boys, and girls – in all stages of the response. Partners will ensure refugees have transparent access to information about services and referrals and that their feedback significantly influences interventions. Collective approaches to complaints and feedback will be promoted across country operations to ensure refugees are aware and have access to complaints and feedback mechanisms, and that feedback data informs the continuous improvement of the response. Post-food and non-food distribution mechanisms are also institutionalized as a key to receiving feedback. Furthermore, countries in the region will promote standard operating procedures for the distribution of assistance to ensure that measures are in place to mitigate aid diversion based on lessons learnt in Ethiopia.

Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

RRP partners will implement a comprehensive approach to integrate Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) across the response aimed at effectively protecting refugees from sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA). Under the leadership of PSEA Coordinators and Network Co-chairs, the Inter-Agency PSEA Networks will support mainstreaming PSEA activities as a collective responsibility across all sectors, focusing on mitigating SEA risks. Strategic approaches for PSEA will be designed and implemented, ensuring SEA prevention, response, risk mitigation, and inter-agency coordination are prioritized, in accordance with a victim/survivor-centred approach. SEA risks will be updated in the corporate risk register and treatment measures outlined including the use of the country-specific PSEA standard operating procedures. PSEA considerations will be integrated into multisectoral needs assessments, influencing strategic objectives and protection needs analysis. Furthermore, PSEA Coordinators will collaborate with various sector working groups to ensure a coordinated and coherent approach to PSEA messaging.

[7] Core Actions for Refugee Youth | Refworld
[8] Document - UNHCR Regional Youth Peacebuilding Programme

Localization

There are 34 national NGOs in the South Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) out of the 123 appealing partners. The national NGOs are represented in coordination mechanisms at the sector level and national level. The RRP countries also aim to enhance further engagement of Refugee-Led Organizations (RLOs) and other national NGOs that are not listed in the plan but are working in related areas. This engagement will build off the mapping of community-based organizations led by displaced and stateless people[9], primarily through capacity building.

Climate Action

The partners collaborate on integrating climate action into the response. For 2024, this will be informed by the 2023-2028 UNHCR EHAGL Region Climate Action Plan, which focuses on enhancing the implementation of UNHCR's global climate commitments by bolstering the capacity of states to protect individuals affected by climate crises through legal, policy, and normative engagement. The partners will seek to expand partnerships and increase financing to give displaced populations and host communities better access to environmentally sustainable resources and services while advocating for increased adaptation financing. Finally, the plan emphasizes integrating forcibly displaced and stateless people into national climate change policies and plans, enhancing their preparedness and resilience against climate shocks. Partners will be encouraged to reduce their carbon footprint and implement protection-centred environmentally sustainable solutions to minimize negative impacts on the environment. Partners will also be encouraged to support the governments that have made Global Refugee Forum pledges on climate-related solutions, including energy solutions.

As part of the action components, in the RRP countries, energy and environment is a pivotal cross-cutting issue. The refugees, while predominately dependent on firewood for cooking, are being supported by RRP partners to transition towards clean, affordable, and reliable cooking energy solutions. This transition entails tailored interventions aligned with the specific needs and resources of each location. The interventions include the use of fuel-efficient stoves, the purchase of firewood from designated government-authorized woodlots, and diversifying away from traditional biomass where feasible, as exemplified by the provision of ethanol and liquefied natural gas. Additionally, market-based strategies for clean cooking, the establishment of energy hubs, and innovative finance mechanisms are being pursued. Initiatives promoting energy efficiency through community awareness-raising campaigns are integral to the interventions. Furthermore, the solarization of key infrastructure including boreholes is being implemented to bolster the sustainability of interventions, fostering a balance between energy access and environmental preservation. Addressing the cooking energy needs also contributes to physical protection particularly women and girls who are often the ones charged with firewood collection which often takes place in isolated locations and presents the risks of assaults.

Cash Assistance

RRP partners will promote the strategic use of cash assistance for refugees, aiming to support financial independence and choice to address their unique needs and priorities. Close to 10 per cent of the total RRP budget, USD 135 Million is designated for cash interventions across the sectors of protection, food security, livelihoods, education, shelter, WASH, and public health, and the area of energy and environment. Cash has already been used in the response and demonstrated its capacity to contribute to the local economies and promote dignity and self-reliance among refugees. The cash assistance will be tailored to the specific context and needs of each setting, ensuring efficient and effective

[9] In January 2024 there were 309 community-based organizations led by forcibly displaced and stateless people that had self-registered using the mapping tool: Kenya (69), Uganda (187), Sudan (2), Ethiopia (6) and DRC (45)

aid distribution. Each country will institute robust monitoring and evaluation to ensure transparency, accountability, and adaptability of the assistance programs to changing circumstances.

Partnership and Coordination

Strong partnerships and coordination across the five countries are pivotal for the response adhering to the principles of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and the Refugee Coordination Model. The 2024 plan encompasses a multisectoral response backed by a diverse array of actors made up of 123 partners, including International NGOs comprising 64 per cent of all RRP partners, national NGOs making up 28 per cent, and UN agencies representing 8 per cent. Many of these partners participated in the RRP in 2022 and 2023, bringing valuable experience and established relationships with the communities and governments involved.

The focus of these partnerships extends beyond emergency assistance, aiming to enhance the resilience and self-reliance of South Sudanese refugees, including to foster peaceful coexistence with host communities. To this effect, the RRP is an opportunity to leverage existing partnership frameworks to advance refugee protection and inclusion, such as UNHCR–UNICEF Strategic Collaboration Framework and UNDP-UNHCR Global Collaboration Framework (GCF) for Inclusion and Solutions 2023-2025. The 2024 RRP also continues to deepen engagement with development and peacebuilding partners, leveraging processes led by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the East African Community to seek sustainable solutions for South Sudanese refugees.

In each participating country, there are national Refugee coordination forums) co-chaired by the Governments and UNHCR and sector specific interagency coordination mechanisms at national, sub-national and local level, as appropriate to the context. These mechanisms are vital for providing technical support, guidance, and monitoring of the response in each country. At the regional level, sectoral coordination mechanisms include the Regional Protection Working Group, and the Regional Child Protection Network.

Refugees are included in the development strategies of most of the RRP countries, as reflected in the respective United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCF) in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda. As such, the UNSDCF in those countries include interventions focused on addressing the unique challenges faced by refugees and capitalizing on the potential that their presence may bring for on economic growth, social cohesion, and resilience. Including refugees in the UNSDCF also enables the shift from short-term humanitarian aid to sustainable, long-term solutions, aligning with the principle of shared international responsibility and the goal of leaving no one behind in pursuing sustainable development.

Regional Monitoring Framework

The South Sudan Regional RRP employs a comprehensive and robust monitoring framework structured around a set of indicators and targets across its nine response sectors. This framework is collaboratively developed at the country level with various partners, utilizing recognised standards of assistance grounded in the Sphere standards. A compilation of common indicators from each country forms the basis of the regional framework, providing a cohesive and standardized approach to monitoring progress across different contexts. The plan is evaluated annually against this regional framework, with partners actively contributing to the reporting process. This systematic approach allows for the consolidation of results under the RRP, ensuring that the needs of the South Sudanese refugees are met efficiently and effectively.

* Refer to Annex 2 – Monitoring Results.

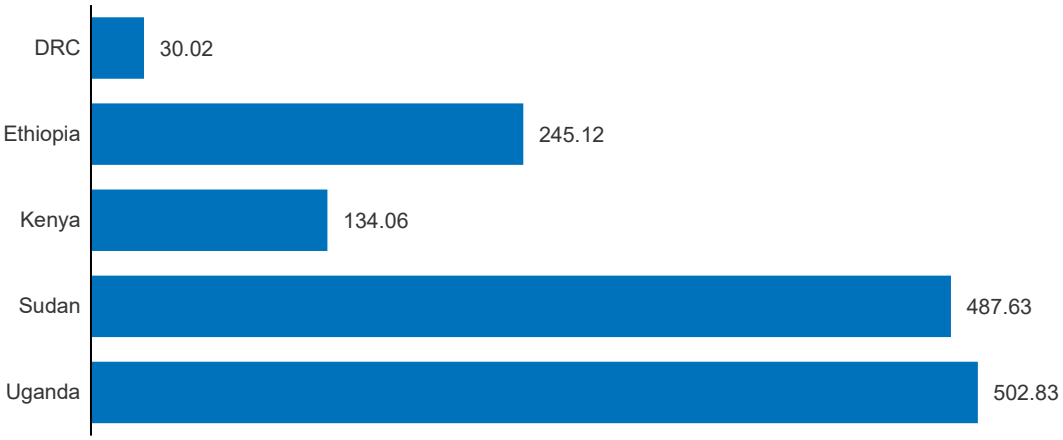
The refugee funding tracker is also used to provide a transparent overview of the financial resources allocated for the Regional Refugee Response plans. It tracks the funding requirements of the appealing organization and disbursements from various sources, such as governments, international organizations, NGOs, and private donors.

Regional Inter-Agency Financial Requirements

Total Financial Requirements In USD **$ 1.4 B**

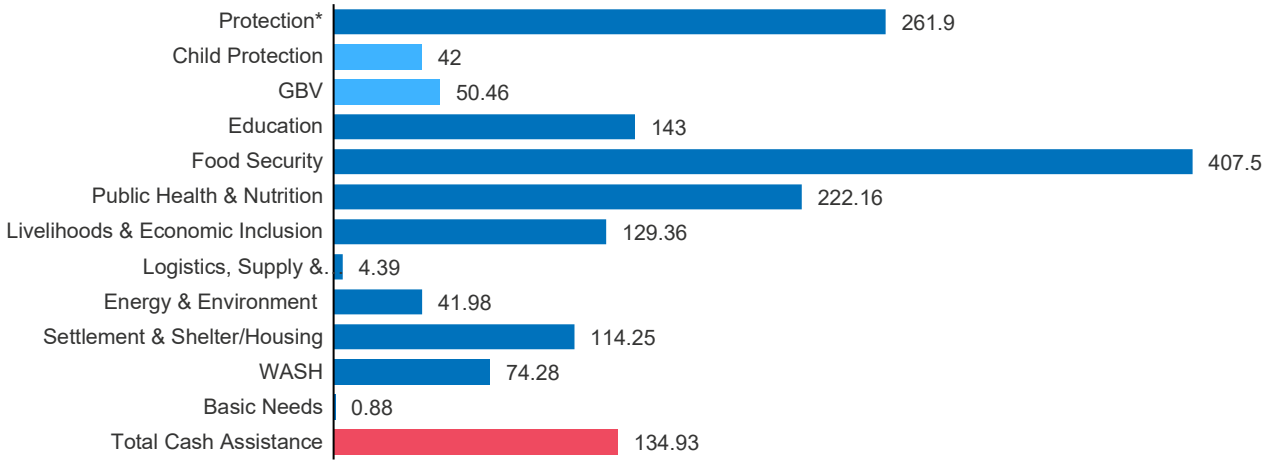
Budget summary by country

In millions USD



Budget summary by sector at regional level

Million in USD



** CP and GBV budgets are subsets of the Protection budget*

Total Protection requirements
$ 261,884,284

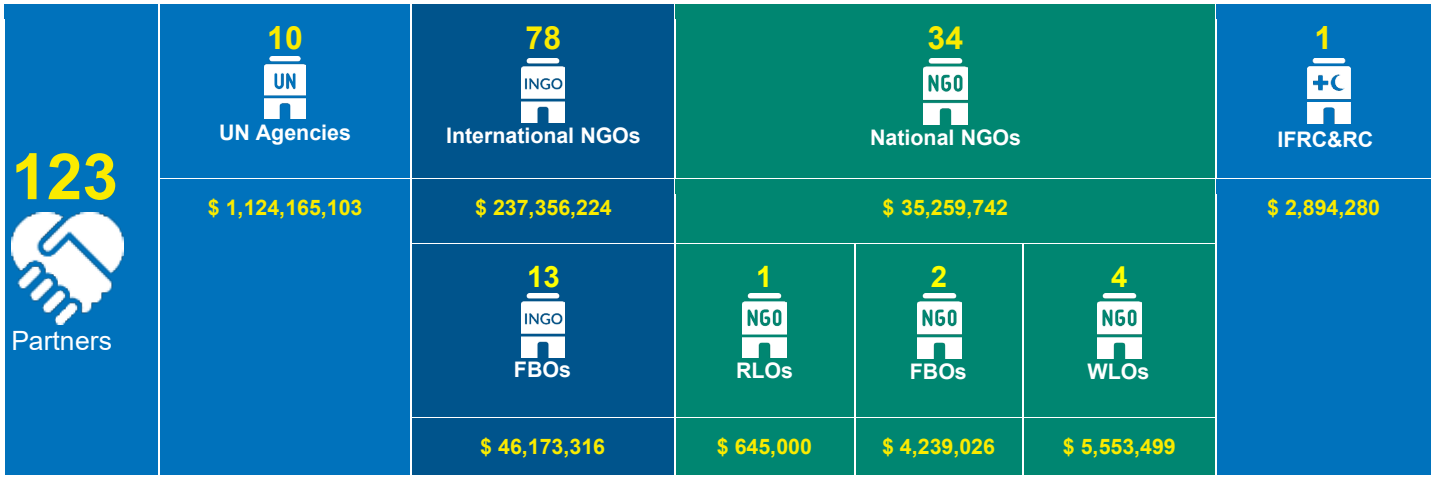
Other protection activities	Of which GBV	Of which Child Protection
$ 169,426,627 65% of total	$ 50,460,069 19% of total	$ 41,997,587 16% of total

Total Cash Assistance requirements*
$ 140,310,072

Protection $ 6,208,028	Food security $ 107,853,605	Education $ 1,051,000	Livelihoods &Economic Inclusion $ 8,780,000
Settlement and Shelter/Housing $ 5,382,680	Energy and Environment $ 2,736,050	Public Health & Nutrition $ 8,198,709	WASH $ 100,000

** This is a breakdown by sector of the requirements for cash assistance which are included in the above total sectoral budgets. Cash assistance is pursued and reflected as a key modality of assistance and protection in line with UNHCR's CBI Policy 2022-2026. Cash assistance is used as a cross-cutting modality across the various sectors, including protection, and is budgeted for accordingly and in line with a basic needs approach. As the modality of choice of the people we work with, cash assistance will be used as the primary means to meet immediate basic needs and provide important protection outcomes.*

Budget summary by partner type



Notes:

This list only includes appealing organizations under the RRP, many of which collaborate with implementing partners to carry out RRP activities. See 'Budget Summary by Partner' for partner breakdown per type.

The amount listed for the FBOs, RLOs and WLOs are subsets of the amount listed above for the International NGOs and National NGOs.

Budget Summary by Partner

Partner	Acronym / Short Title	Type	DRC	Ethiopia	Kenya	Sudan	Uganda	Total (USD)
IFRC/ICRC					**2,894,280**			**2,894,280**
Kenya Red Cross Society	KRCS	IFRC/ICRC			2,894,280			2,894,280
INGOs				**34,209,202**	**18,831,707**	**40,514,326**	**143,800,989**	**237,356,224**
Action Against Hunger	ACF	INGO		2,700,000			4,500,000	7,200,000
Adventist Development and Relief Agency	ADRA	INGO/FBO				4,262,100	11,500,000	15,762,100
Africa Humanitarian Action	AHA	INGO					18,300	18,300
African Partners for Child Poverty	APPCO	INGO					1,950,000	1,950,000
African Women Rising	AWR	INGO					1,945,972	1,945,972
Aga Khan Foundation (Uganda)	Aga Khan	INGO					500,000	500,000
Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development	ACTED	INGO				290,200	300,000	590,200
Alliance Forum for Development	AFOD	INGO					760,000	760,000
ARC/Alight	Alight	INGO				198,000	2,005,445	2,203,445
Association of Volunteers in International Service	AVSI	INGO					1,453,215	1,453,215
Ayuda en Acción	AyudaEA	INGO					430,211	430,211
Brass for Africa	BfA	INGO					260,000	260,000

Building Resources Across Communities	BRAC	INGO					5,577,894	5,577,894
Caritas Uganda	Caritas	INGO/FBO					1,289,661	1,289,661
Catholic Agency for Overseas Development	CAFOD	INGO/FBO				967,560		967,560
Child Voice International	Child Voice	INGO					160,000	160,000
ChildFund International	CFI	INGO					230,000	230,000
Comitato Internazionale Per Lo Sviluppo Dei Popoli	CISP	INGO		486,708				486,708
Concern Worldwide	Concern	INGO				1,275,500		1,275,500
Cooperation and Development	C&D	INGO					100,000	100,000
Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere	CARE	INGO				2,176,740	2,550,000	4,726,740
Cooperazione e Sviluppo	CESVI	INGO					400,000	400,000
Cooperazione Internazionale	COOPI	INGO				2,465,000		2,465,000
DAI Global LLC	DAI	INGO					250,000	250,000
DanChurchAid	DCA	INGO/FBO		1,000,000			2,250,000	3,250,000
Danish Refugee Council	DRC	INGO			256,023	1,935,000	2,057,472	4,248,495
Doctors with Africa CUAMM	CUAMM	INGO		1,000,000			300,000	1,300,000
Finn Church Aid	FCA	INGO/FBO			1,200,000		5,000,000	6,200,000
Finnish Mission Uganda	FIDA/FMU	INGO/FBO					135,000	135,000
Finnish Refugee Council	FRC	INGO					1,174,000	1,174,000
Food for the Hungry	FH	INGO/FBO					1,610,000	1,610,000
Give Directly	Give Directly	INGO					2,800,000	2,800,000
GOAL	GOAL	INGO		1,050,000				1,050,000
Haileybury Youth Trust	HYT	INGO					470,000	470,000
HealthRight International	HRI	INGO					450,000	450,000
HelpAge International, UK	HelpAge	INGO		1,400,000			55,000	1,455,000
Hope Health Action East Africa	HHA	INGO					464,000	464,000

Human Appeal	HA	INGO				430,000		430,000
Humanitarian Initiative Just Relief Aid	HIJRA	INGO					350,000	350,000
Humanity & Inclusion	HI	INGO					950,000	950,000
International Aid Services	IAS	INGO					250,000	250,000
International Medical Corps	IMC	INGO		1,520,000				1,520,000
International Refugee Rights Initiative	IRRI	INGO					450,000	450,000
International Rescue Committee	IRC	INGO		600,000	3,141,684	1,490,750	9,569,000	14,801,434
Islamic Relief Worldwide	IRW	INGO/FBO				960,376		960,376
IsraAID	IsraAID	INGO					182,000	182,000
Jesuit Refugee Service	JRS	INGO/FBO			850,000		1,362,779	2,212,779
Lutheran World Federation	LWF	INGO/FBO		760,000	10,000,000		4,130,914	14,890,914
Malteser International	Malteser	INGO					679,147	679,147
Medical Teams International	MTI	INGO				1,000,000	3,797,910	4,797,910
Mercy Corps	MC	INGO		6,500,000		1,300,000	6,000,000	13,800,000
Norwegian Church Aid	NCA	INGO/FBO		600,500				600,500
Norwegian Refugee Council	NRC	INGO		8,500,000		12,537,000	8,420,000	29,457,000
Oxford Committee for Famine Relief	Oxfam	INGO					2,650,000	2,650,000
Peace Winds Japan	PWJ	INGO			1,063,001		61,390	1,124,391
Plan International	PI	INGO		5,141,994		3,859,000	3,044,898	12,045,892
Raising Gabdho Foundation	RGF	INGO					300,000	300,000
Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative	REPSSI	INGO					7,936,720	7,936,720
Relief International	RI	INGO				1,800,000		1,800,000
Right to Play	RtP	INGO					250,000	250,000
Safe Home Africa	Safe Home Africa	INGO					59,000	59,000
Save the Children International	SCI	INGO				1,055,000	17,300,000	18,355,000

Self Help Africa	SHA	INGO					1,000,000	1,000,000
Simbi Foundation (formerly The Walking School Bus)	Simbi/TWSB	INGO					40,000	40,000
Street Child	Street Child	INGO					744,573	744,573
Swiss Church Aid	HEKS/EPER (SCA)	INGO/FBO					650,000	650,000
Terres Des Hommes	Tdh	INGO			320,000			320,000
The BOMA Project	The BOMA Project	INGO			1,548,395			1,548,395
The Toolkit Foundation	TTF	INGO			200,000			200,000
Village Enterprise	VE	INGO					95,000	95,000
War Child Canada	WCC	INGO					4,500,000	4,500,000
War Child Holland	WCH	INGO					2,000,000	2,000,000
Welthungerhilfe	WHH	INGO					73,902	73,902
Windle International Kenya	WIK	INGO			252,604			252,604
Windle International Uganda	WIU	INGO					6,980,260	6,980,260
World Vision International	WVI	INGO/FBO				2,160,000	6,420,000	8,580,000
World Youth Organization	WYO	INGO					500,000	500,000
ZOA International	ZOA/FBO	INGO		2,950,000		352,100	107,326	3,409,426
NNGOs				**8,686,000**	**1,526,925**	**6,633,165**	**18,413,652**	**35,259,742**
Action for the Needy in Ethiopia	ANE	NNGO		5,000,000				5,000,000
African Humanitarian Aid and Development Agency	AHADA	NNGO		230,000				230,000
African Relief Committee	ARCO	NNGO				500,000		500,000
African Women and Youth Action for Development	AWYAD	NNGO					1,710,000	1,710,000
Al Manar Voluntary Organization	Almanar	NNGO				2,000,000		2,000,000
Alsalam Organization for Rehabilitation and Development	AORD	NNGO				890,715		890,715
Andre Foods International	AFI	NNGO					569,808	569,808
Baylor college of Medicine Children's Foundation-	BAYLOR	NNGO					216,241	216,241

Uganda								
Care and Assistance for Forced Migrants	CAFOMI	NNGO					1,061,780	1,061,780
Community Empowerment for Rural Development	CEFORD	NNGO					3,719,430	3,719,430
Don Bosco Kakuma	DBK	NNGO/FBO			783,026			783,026
Ethiopian Orthodox Church Development and Interchurch Aid Commission Refugee and Returnee Affairs Department	EOC-DICAC/RRAD	NNGO/FBO		3,456,000				3,456,000
Film Aid Kenya	FAK	NNGO			109,983			109,983
Global Aid Hand	GAH	NNGO				465,500		465,500
Healthcare Foundation Organization	HFO	NNGO				300,000		300,000
Hope and Friendship for Development Organization	HOPE	NNGO				900,000		900,000
Hopelink Action Foundation Uganda	HAF Uganda	NNGO					270,000	270,000
Humanitarian Assistance and Development Services	HADS	NNGO					85,000	85,000
I CAN South Sudan	I CAN SSD	NNGO/RLO					645,000	645,000
JASMAR	JASMAR	NNGO				304,300		304,300
Lotus Kenya Action for Development Organization	LOKADO	NNGO			333,916			333,916
Luigi Giussani Foundation	LGF	NNGO					75,000	75,000
Mutawinat	Mutawinat	NNGO				700,000		700,000
NADA	NADA	NNGO				372,650		372,650
Okapi Green Ltd	Okapi Green Ltd	NNGO			300,000			300,000
Refugee Law Project	RLP	NNGO					1,700,000	1,700,000
Response Team Organization	RTO	NNGO				200,000		200,000
Soroti Rural Development Agency	SORUDA	NNGO					350,000	350,000
Transcultural Psychosocial Organization	TPO	NNGO					996,000	996,000
Trust Synergy Foundation - Uganda	TSFU	NNGO					2,939,000	2,939,000
Tusitukire Wamu Group	TWG	NNGO					3,700,000	3,700,000

Uganda Community Based Association for Women and Children Welfare	UCOBAC	NNGO					13,499	13,499
Uganda Refugee Disaster and Management Council	URDMC	NNGO					232,894	232,894
Women and Rural Development Network	WORUDET	NNGO/WLO					130,000	130,000
UN			**30,022,881**	**202,227,312**	**110,810,094**	**440,485,417**	**340,619,399**	**1,124,165,103**
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	UN-FAO	UN		11,620,000	3,700,000	4,652,315	11,500,000	31,472,315
International Organization for Migration	UN-IOM	UN		1,500,000		4,500,000	10,830,769	16,830,769
UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women	UN-WOMEN	UN			5,000,000		4,300,000	9,300,000
United Nations Children's Fund	UN-UNICEF	UN		1,554,956	2,610,000	60,632,474	8,624,725	73,422,155
United Nations Development Programme	UN-UNDP	UN					12,500,000	12,500,000
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	UN-UNHCR	UN	23,577,534	105,081,727	39,592,606	178,555,606	188,869,320	535,676,793
United Nations Human Settlements Programme	UN-HABITAT	UN			1,500,000			1,500,000
United Nations Population Fund	UN-UNFPA	UN		2,500,000	2,500,000	17,444,259	10,387,982	32,832,241
United Nations World Food Programme	UN-WFP	UN	6,445,347	79,970,629	55,907,488	164,330,763	90,498,603	397,152,830
World Health Organization	UN-WHO	UN				10,370,000	3,108,000	13,478,000
Grand Total			**30,022,881**	**245,122,514**	**134,063,006**	**487,632,908**	**502,834,040**	**1,399,675,349**

The Democratic Republic of Congo Planned Response

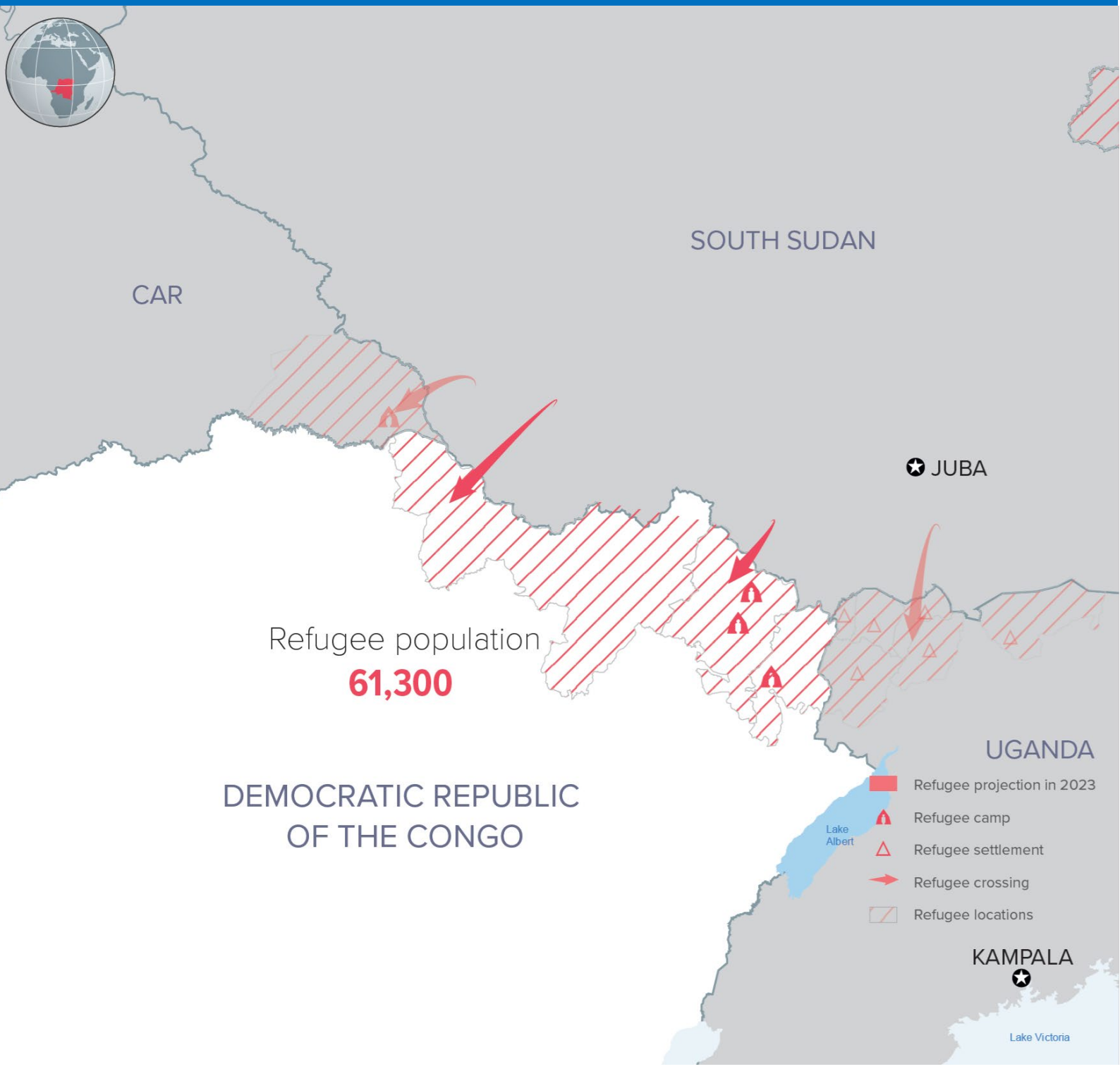
January-December 2024

61,300
Projected refugee population

12,260
Assisted host community population

30.02 M
Total financial requirements

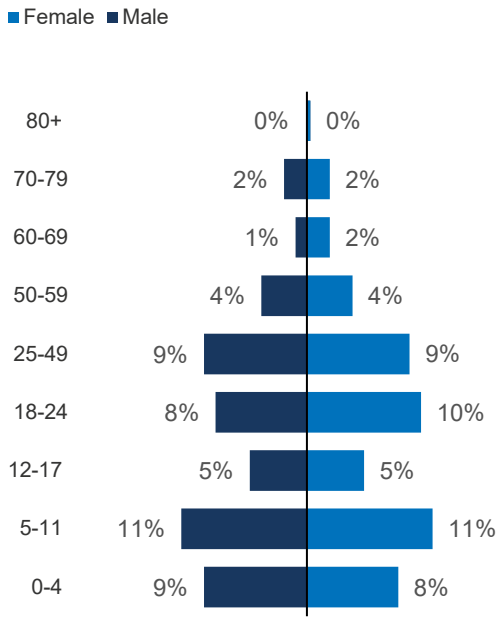
2
Partners



The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

Country	Population as of end of 2023	Planned Population as of end of 2024
Targeted Refugee Population		
Refugee Population	53,552	61,300
Total	**53 552**	**61,300**
Targeted Host Population		
Country	11,760	12,260
Total	**11,760**	**12,260**

Age and gender breakdown



16% of total 61.3k

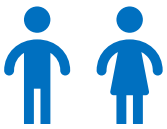
People with disabilities[10]

51%

Women and girls

49%

Men and boys



49%

Girls and boys

Part 1: Current Situation

Situation Overview

As of 31 December 2023, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) hosted 53,307 refugees and 245 asylum-seekers from South Sudan, many of whom had arrived since 2016. The demographic composition of these South Sudanese refugees is 53 per cent female and 47 per cent male, and amongst those, children represent 49 per cent of the population. 65 per cent of the refugees reside in refugee camps of Biringi, Meri, and Bele in Ituri and Haut-Uele provinces and 34 per cent live in the surrounding rural areas. Less than 1 per cent live in urban locations in Kinshasa.

The two hosting provinces are characterized by weak infrastructure and resources, including dilapidated roads, poor capacity of health facilities and schools, lack of electricity, contributing to significant challenges for refugees and the local populations to meet basic needs. Despite the investments of Refugee Response Plan (RRP) partners and the Government, refugees rely heavily on humanitarian assistance to access essential services, including protection (with

[10] The global estimate is that 16 per cent of the population is expected to have a disability. https://www.who.int/teams/noncommunicable-diseases/sensory-functions-disability-and-rehabilitation/global-report-on-health-equity-for-persons-with-disabilities

gender-based violence and child protection responses), healthcare, education, clean water, sanitation, shelter, food, and income-generating activities.

The security situation in both provinces is highly unstable, with the presence of State and non—State armed actors, often challenging humanitarian access for RRP partners and often compromising the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum. In Ituri province, public administration and administration of justice functions continue to be carried out by military and police authorities, and movement restrictions are still enforced based on the 2021 "State of Siege" declaration[11]. Refugees were relocated to Bele and Biringi, away from the border and Meri site as it is less than 50 km from the border with South Sudan and at risk of incursions and sporadic attacks by armed groups given the porous nature of the borders. During the DRC presidential and legislative elections held in December 2023 the situation in the refugee-hosting provinces remained tense but stable.

Country Risks and Needs

South Sudanese refugees in the DRC continue to face numerous protection risks and challenging socioeconomic conditions. Both the local population and the refugees are struggling to meet their basic needs due to lack of access to resources. In addition, due to the ongoing internal conflict, they are exposed to high levels of violence, including conflict-related gender-based violence (GBV), and inter-communal violence. Refugees with specific needs, including unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), older people, women heads of households, and people with disabilities, are the most affected due to neglect, marginalization, and lack of community support. They continue to be in need of specialized services from RRP partners, while the capacity of national institutions in the areas remain weak.

As of 31 December 2023, at least 60 per cent of close to 31400 people registered biometrically had valid identity documents. The asylum authorities, notably the Eligibility Commission for Refugees (CNR), continue to need capacity and technical support from RRP partners to improve their ability to register and document all refugees effectively.

Community structures like farmers associations and women's groups have contributed to strengthening community-based protection, including on addressing GBV. However, these groups need to remain accountable and need strengthening in the identification and referral of GBV incidents. GBV, cases will need adequate medical assistance and psychosocial support as, critical gaps remain for survivors to access other forms of socio-economic support and legal assistance, due to the absence of judicial authorities in the areas hosting the refugee sites. Also, in general, the weak judicial institutions contribute to the lack of redress and to the impunity of GBV perpetrators. Factors contributing to the incidence of GBV include the presence of children without parental care, the low income of parents, and the persistence of harmful traditional practices. Some refugee men reportedly deny their families resources and misuse family resources for example by purchasing alcohol, and the result is that women and children, find it difficult to access food.

More than 49 per cent of the population are children, of whom 457 are recorded as children at risk. Among the most reported child protection risks are family separation (283 separated children including 132 girls and 151 boys and 12 unaccompanied children including 6 girls and 6 boys), child labour, child marriage, GBV. The capacity-building for 26 state and non-state actors involved in the Best Interests Determination Procedure (BID) was organized in 2023 to revitalize the Best Interest Determination panels working with children at risk. While progress has been made on birth registration with the Civil Registry, resulting in 53 per cent of the 559 new births being registered, birth registration continues to be constrained by the lack of registers in civil registry offices.

Among the most reported child protection risks, family separation, child labor, child marriage child GBV, and risk of child recruitment into illegal activities. The communities lack child-friendly spaces that can be used to reach children and adolescents through group interventions and messaging. Another major concern for the well-being and development

[11] Etat de siège : « Cette prorogation permettra à nos forces de défense de faire face au M23 et à la CODECO » (Rose Mutombo) | Radio Okapi

of refugee children is the low household income and the inability of RRP partners to support all school-age children to enrol in school. During the participatory assessments conducted in 2023, refugees emphasized the importance of education for all school-age children, including that it would reduce the risks of juvenile neglect, abuse, and exploitation. The lack of school infrastructure, supplies, and equipment are among the factors contributing to the low enrollment rate. Additionally, recreational activities are almost non-existent on these sites. In January 2023, 18 classrooms whose construction was finalized at the end of 2022 were handed over to the school authorities. By the end of the 2022-2023 school year, nearly 100 per cent of 13,300 refugee children (50 per cent girls) of primary school age had been enrolled in primary school. However, while 11,061 refugee children (4,970 girls and 5,091 boys) of secondary school age have been identified, only 7 per cent were enrolled in secondary school. Only 2 students were pursuing their university studies through the DAFI scholarship.

The results of a national socioeconomic survey conducted by Institut National des Statistiques in April 2023 indicated that only 14 per cent of refugees and asylum-seekers self-report positive changes in their income compared to the previous year and that only 4 per cent of refugees and asylum-seekers are enrolled in tertiary and higher education.

During the second trimester of 2023 RRP partners faced financial difficulties, which led to the suspension of food distribution in September 2023. This has significantly reduced the quality of life in refugee households, who were dependent on aid. Refugees have stressed the need to increase livelihood activities through vocational training and capital for petit trade and agricultural activities, with priority given to young people.

Cash-based interventions (CBI) is identified as of interest for refugees in most sectors following a multi-sectoral needs assessment done by RRP partners. These included the need for improved access to healthcare services, the need for land and building materials for shelter construction, educational needs and other livelihood needs.

One of the main priorities for RRP partners is to enhance the livelihoods of South Sudanese refugees through agricultural practices, fish farming, and other income-generating activities. Arable and fertile land is available in the respective sites, with more than 2,600 hectares of farmland having been contributed to the refugees and host communities. However, these lands continue to be underutilized due to low-tech farming methods. With limited resources, livelihood-strengthening activities primarily target a small number of refugees who receive agricultural inputs, such as materials and seeds. Expanding the number of beneficiaries of technical training and agricultural support will be challenging due to reduced funds.

Furthermore, there is a need to improve the water, hygiene, and sanitation infrastructure, including improving existing water sources and installing boreholes. RRP partners will need to advocate for more farmland. The gaps in shelter are acute, with up to 5,600 transitional shelters built between 2016 and 2018 in a state of disrepair, and some have collapsed. Due to insufficient resources, RRP partners were unable to construct new shelters.

Part 2: DRC Country Protection and Solutions Strategy

Country Strategic Objectives

In 2024, RRP partners will focus on:

SO1: Maintaining access to territory and to the right to seek and enjoy asylum, and enhancing the protection environment and the realization of the rights of South Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers.

In partnership with the National Commission for Refugees (CNR), RRP partners will continue to strengthen the asylum system and implement activities to enable South Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers to live in peace and security and enjoy their rights without discrimination. This includes ensuring access to territory and adherence to the principle of non-refoulement for all new asylum-seekers through a coordinated approach that guarantees access to a free refugee status determination procedure and recourse mechanisms in accordance with the applicable national legislation. Activities will include individual registration and documentation, allowing South Sudanese refugees to exercise their freedom of movement and facilitate access basic social services. In 2024, RRP partners will strengthen relations

between host communities, refugees and asylum-seekers and promoting peaceful coexistence. In addition, RRP partners will advocate for more engagement from local authorities and law enforcement in maintaining the safety and security of refugee-hosting areas to the benefit of refugees and hosting communities.

SO2: Providing quality, efficient, and timely protection and life-saving multi-sectoral assistance to South Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers and their host communities.

RRP partners will support refugees and asylum-seekers to access protection services (legal support, documentation of both new born and existing individual) , and income that enable them to live a dignified life by ensuring access to essential household items, health care, and adequate and safe housing for newly arrived asylum-seekers and refugees with specific needs.

SO3: Inclusion of South Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers into national systems.

To facilitate the inclusion of South Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers in national systems, RRP partners will strengthen partnerships with national social services to meet the needs of refugees and asylum-seekers by integrating them into the planning and service provision like health care and education. Access to education will be including to secondary and tertiary education as a tool for protecting children as well as facilitating adolescents who have completed primary education with further education.

SO4: Enhancing durable solutions for South Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers.

RRP partners will improve opportunities to access durable solutions for both refugees and their hos communities, including resettlement and complementary pathways. In addition, refugees will be assisted to access refugee identity documents in the host communities or outside the site with physical verification exercises coupled with the surveys of intention to return to master the refugee statistics necessary for good planning and implementation of activities aiming at durable solutions, resilience, and empowerment of refugees.

Sectoral Responses

PROTECTION

RRP actors in the protection sector will advocate with the Government to continue to guarantee the right to seek and enjoy asylum, by maintaining access to the Congolese territory for all new asylum-seekers and by providing them with the necessary documentation to enjoy fundamental rights, particularly the right to freedom of movement and the opportunity to access assistance and services. Support will be provided to the National commission for Refugees in terms of improving their capacities (technical and material), providing support for advocacy meetings and workshops with other government institutions to promote the plight of SS refugees among the local military, administration and the customary chiefs, service providers. As part of a community-based protection the response aims to build on the capacity of the communities and the community governance structures in order to increase their participation in the response. They will revitalize the refugee sectoral and thematic committees, including the organization of elections of representatives.

Sub-Sector: Child Protection

RRP partners will continue to provide services to children at risk and their families, through best interest procedure, alternative care arrangements, family tracing and reunification efforts, and PSS support. Child protection partners will continue strengthening the Best Interest Procedure for refugee and asylum-seeking children, through capacity development efforts, but will also strengthen the capacity of community structures to identify and refer children at risk. Families and communities will also be supported to protect children and community-driven child protection prevention will be carried out. Community- based structures/committees will be supported to disseminate information on services,

alert communities on protection risks and mitigating measures among men and women, and create community-based support initiatives for the wellbeing of children such as recreational activities. Efforts to strengthen the inclusion of children in national child protection systems will be carried out, including continuing through support to the Civil Registry on birth registration. Child protection partners will also work with key sectors such as GBV to address violence against children and implement prevention and risk mitigation in schools as well as support for retention of children in schools.

Sub-sector: Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

RRP partners will continue to provide multisectoral, lifesaving, survivor-centred services to GBV survivors while strengthening the GBV referral systems, including through continuous update of GBV Standard Operating Procedures and training on safe disclosure and referral of GBV survivors to frontline workers and community members. RRP partners will also work with other sectors to address factors contributing to GBV, including child abandonment which increases the risk of sexual abuse, violation, early marriages. We will improve livelihoods particularly promoting access to opportunities for women and older girls to foster their empowerment RRP partners will also carry out GBV prevention interventions that aim to address GBV root causes and harmful practices. GBV partners will also support SEA prevention, awareness raising and to support SEA victims to access survivor-centred GBV services including health and counselling.

EDUCATION

Handover of a classroom to the authorities and communities (host and refugee) at EP UBOKO OSUO in Biringi in January 2023. A total of 18 classrooms were handed over at the beginning of the current year: 12 in Biringi and 6 in Bele. ©UNHCR /Felipe MATEOS

To maintain efforts to promote access to education as a tool for protection and empowerment, RRP partners will continue to support children from vulnerable households with school supplies. Emphasis will also be placed on promoting primary education especially for girls by implementing activities that are incentives to encourage enrolment and retention.

Support will also be provided to step up vocational training for out-of-school refugee youth. Increasing access to schools and retention, especially for girls, RRP partners will ensure that schools are in safe areas within or near refugee camps and are accessible to all students; carry out Community Engagement and Awareness including parents, community leaders, and religious authorities, to highlight the importance of education for girls. Address cultural and social barriers that may prevent girls from attending school; improve teacher training and support on gender-sensitive teaching methods, trauma-informed teaching approaches, and inclusive education practices. UNHCR will invest in improving access to basic school needs, including water, sanitation, and healthcare facilities to ensure that girls and boys are physically able to attend school and focus on their education.

FOOD SECURITY

RRP partners will focus on agricultural support activities for refugees and host communities to improve their capacity to produce their own food. Livelihood programs will also be implemented to facilitate income-generating activities and livelihood programs to help refugees become self-reliant and improve their access to food.

Improving access to existing markets within the refugee communities through improving transportation and market infrastructure to facilitate the storage and movement of food supplies and enable refugees to buy and sell goods. Mainly to strengthen local markets and support the development of value chains for agricultural products

PUBLIC HEALTH & NUTRITION

In 2024, RRP partners will work with local health system to ensure access to public health care, secondary and tertiary care, mental health support and drug supply, including antiretrovirals. Emphasis will be placed strengthen local primary healthcare services to provide comprehensive and integrated care for refugees, including preventive services, maternal and child health, vaccinations, and treatment of common illnesses. RRP partners will conduct health education and outreach programs to raise awareness among refugees about available healthcare services, preventive measures, and healthy behaviours to also build community-based approaches address the cultural barriers to nutrition.

LIVELIHOODS & RESILIENCE (AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION)

Agriculture production will remain a key pillar in the livelihood and economic inclusion sector with refugees and their host communities. Farmers will be supported with (upgraded) farming tools/equipment, quality seeds and inputs, and training on good farming practices to improve production. Progressing towards more market-oriented approaches, value addition and agri-business development opportunities will be explored.

(Right) In Biringi market, refugees and the host community trade locally grown produce, thereby boosting the local economy and fostering peaceful coexistence.
(Left) Hussein Mungufeni is a refugee from South Sudan who cultivates and sells maize and groundnuts ©UNHCR /Faouzia HAIDARA

Opportunities in other sectors will also be identified, particularly for groups who may not have an interest in agriculture, such as the youth. This would include enhancing employability through vocational/skills training in critical skill areas complemented with attachment or internship with local businesses/employers. Start-up support for viable businesses will be provided to those interested in pursuing entrepreneurship. Thriving livelihood activities like hotels, restaurants, and gas stations, among others, will be supported to grow to create employment for others. Financial inclusion is critical in enhancing the economic inclusion of refugees and host communities. Access to financial services will be facilitated in collaboration with financial service providers, building on financial inclusion efforts that have been initiated. RRP partners will prioritize sustainable capacity-building efforts to enhance self-sufficiency while also emphasizing the importance of environmental conservation and peaceful coexistence. In 2024, RRP partners will focus on consolidating the agricultural, forestry, and fish farming initiatives and continue advocating for more cultivable spaces.

SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS/HOUSING

RRP partners are committed to ensuring that refugees and asylum-seekers access suitable shelter and support, focusing on individuals with specific needs including people with disabilities and older people who may require modified accommodations or accommodation placed nearer services. Support will be provided to rehabilitate shelters in the refugee camps which have been dilapidated over time. Support for rehabilitation will be provided to persons with specific needs. These efforts aim to gradually enhance the living conditions of refugees and minimize their vulnerability to harsh weather conditions and other protection risks. These infrastructures like latrines, will partly benefit the local community in the proximity to the camps and the rural areas hosting refugees.

WASH

RRP partners will strive to meet the sphere standard of 20 litres of water per person per day, facilitate the establishment of hygienic facilities, and manage medical waste in hospitals and health centres. These efforts will include restoring water wells, building new boreholes, and providing hygiene kits, education, and appropriate waste disposal systems. In addition, RRP partners will endeavour to provide appropriate temporary safe and AGD- sensitive, latrines, showers, and other necessary basic infrastructure. These initiatives aim to enhance the overall welfare of both refugees and host communities by preventing protection risks, as girls will no longer need to go collect water at streams and face protection and health risks.

BASIC NEEDS

In 2024, RRP will continue distributing a mix of cash and in-kind assistance to build resilience as multipurpose/unrestricted Cash assistance has been critical for the well-being of refugees. Many refugee households engage in petty trade and agriculture, livestock and gardening and which contributes to meeting some of their basic needs. The distribution of non-food items (NFIs), toiletries and soap will be targeted mostly at new arrivals, women, girls and vulnerable people.

LOGISTICS, TELECOMS & OPERATION SUPPORT

RRP partners will take the necessary steps to procure and provide goods and equipment to ensure that operations run smoothly and are adequately supported logistically.

This logistical support will encompass various aspects, including maintaining and repairing vehicles, motorcycles, and machinery in a well-equipped garage. It will also involve managing fuel supplies, ensuring proper maintenance of warehouses, and enabling safe and secure transportation of goods and individuals.

Partnership and Coordination

Consistent with the Global Compact on Refugees and the Multisectoral Assistance to Refugees Chapter of the DRC Humanitarian Response plan, UNHCR works closely with the national government, primarily through the National Commission for Refugees at national and local level as well as the provincial governments and customary leaders in Ituri and Haute Uele provinces. More than 6 NGO partners and UN agencies (including partners outside the RRP) also come together with refugee-led committees to implement the response organizations which are part of the coordination at field level. While only two UN agencies are listed as appealing partners in the RRP due to the remote, logistically challenging operational environment, both UNHCR and WFP work with a network of national and international NGOs to provide assistance to these displaced population. To enhance coordination and efficient provision of services for refugees and their hosts, RRP partners will enhance monitoring and oversight over programmes and activities. This will include regular field visits and consultations with refugees and hosting communities, the establishment of feedback and response mechanisms, timely information sharing amongst humanitarian partners as well as with the communities, , support capacity-building efforts with the government, local communities, and regular coordination meetings. RRP partners will also continue to provide regular briefings and share updates every two months with donors.

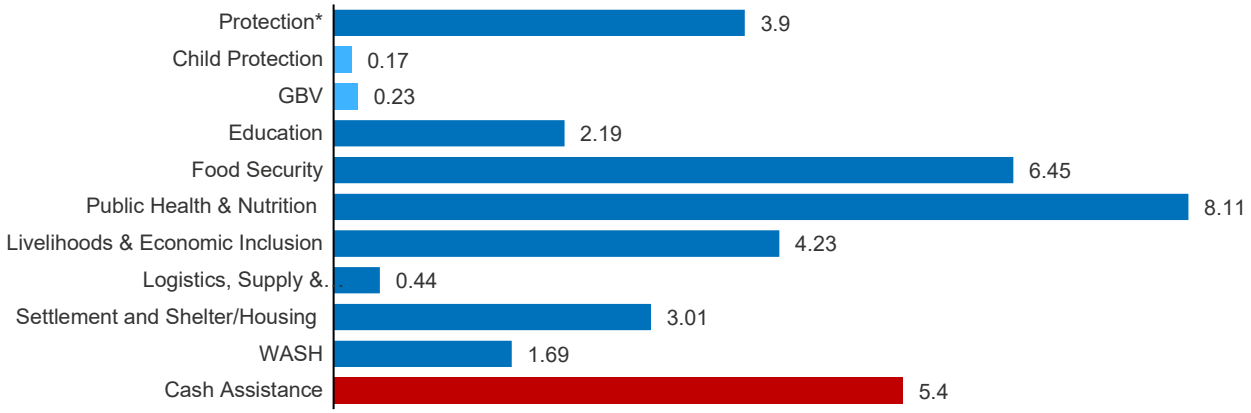
To address the socioeconomic impact, build resilience, promote self-reliance among South Sudanese refugees, and foster peaceful coexistence in host communities, the 2024 RRP will increase collaboration with development and peacebuilding partners. Consequently, RRP partners will enhance their support towards national and local institutions. Attention will be given to establishing partnerships with other organizations working in the areas of local governance, access to justice, community policing, and prevention of GBV in the Biringi, Meri, and Bele sites located in the Ituri and Haut-Uele provinces.

Inter-Agency Financial Requirements

Total Financial Requirements In USD **$ 30.02 M**

Budget summary by sector at country level

Million in USD



** CP and GBV budgets are subsets of the Protection budget.*

Total Protection requirements
$ 3,895,040

Other protection activities	Of which GBV	Of which Child Protection
$ 3,497,756 90% of total	$ 227,051 6% of total	$ 170,233 4% of total

Total Cash Assistance requirements*
$ 5,370,144

Food security
5,370,144

** This is a breakdown by sector of the requirements for cash assistance which are included in the above total sectoral budgets. Cash assistance is pursued and reflected as a key modality of assistance and protection in line with UNHCR's CBI Policy 2022-2026. Cash assistance is used as a cross-cutting modality across the various sectors, including protection, and is budgeted for accordingly and in line with a basic needs approach. As the modality of choice of people we work with, cash assistance will be used as the primary means to meet immediate basic needs and provide important protection outcomes.*

Budget summary by partner type

02 Partners	2 UN Agencies
	$30,022,881

Notes: This list only includes appealing organizations under the RRP, many of which collaborate with implementing partners to carry out RRP activities. See 'Budget Summary by Partner' for partner breakdown per type

Budget Summary by Partner

Partner	Acronym / Short Title	Type	Requirements in US$
UN Agencies			**$ 30,022,881**
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee	UN-UNHCR	UN	23,577,534
World Food Programme	UN-WFP	UN	6,445,347
			Total: $ 30,022,881

Ethiopia Planned Response

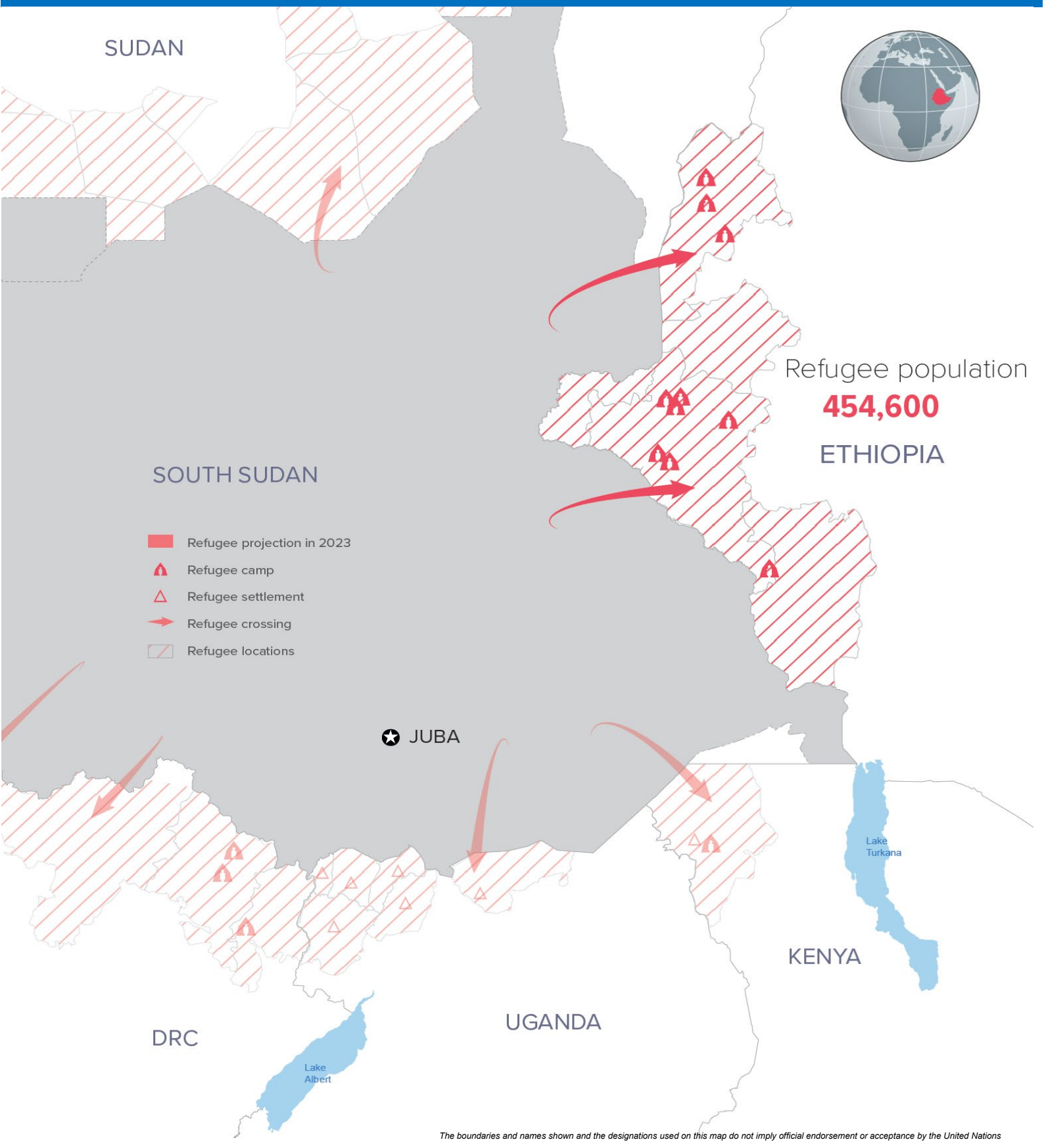
January-December 2024

454,600
Projected refugee population

158,900
Assisted host community population

USD 245.1 M
Total financial requirements

23
Partners

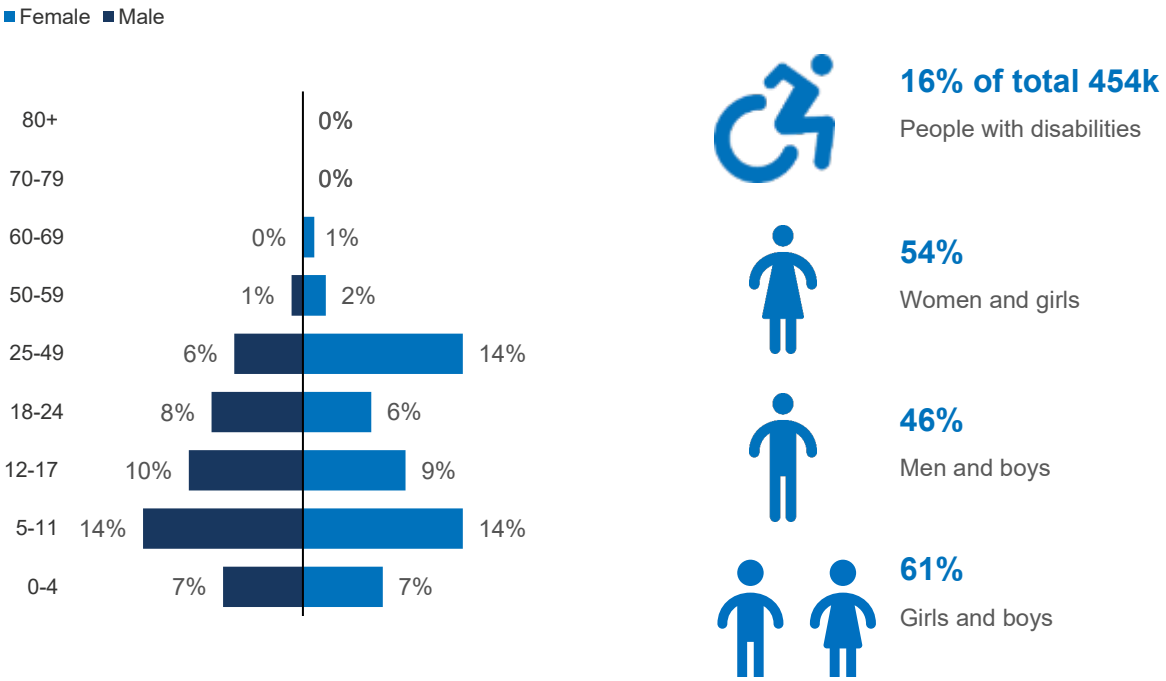


The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

Population Planning Figures

Country	Population as of end of 2023	Planned Population as of end of 2024
Targeted Refugee Population		
Refugee Population	424,550	454,600
Total	**424,550**	**454,600**
Targeted Host Population		
Country	81,233	158,903
Total	**81,233**	**158,903**

Age and gender breakdown



Part 1: Current Situation

Situation Overview

The South Sudanese are the largest refugee population in Ethiopia, totaling 418,749 individuals as of December 2023. Over 92 per cent of South Sudanese refugees are hosted in seven camps and one settlement in the Gambella region, while 7 per cent are hosted in three camps in the Benishangul-Gumuz Region, with the remaining one per cent located in Kangaten refugee settlement located in South Omo in the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' (SNNP) Region and Addis Ababa. More than 85 per cent of the South Sudanese refugee population are women and children, of whom many have specific needs and vulnerabilities, including women at risk, elderly, unaccompanied and separated children and child-headed households. Since September 2023, the Gambella region has been receiving a new influx of South Sudanese refugees due to violence in Pochalla county of South Sudan, located 40 km away from the border of Ethiopia. As of December 2023, more than 7,450 new arrivals have been registered at household-level by the Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) and are considered asylum seekers, pending clear guidance on their prima facie refugee status recognition.

Refugee Response Plan (RRP) partners provide emergency assistance to new arrivals, including health, a variety of protection services, malnutrition screening, emergency shelter, WASH services, and non-food items (NFIs). As services for the refugee population in the Gambella region were already stretched, due to limited funding, the new arrivals are

placing additional strain on health and protection services. The population of South Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia is expected to increase in 2024 as localized conflicts and violence continue in South Sudan. The planned elections and the preparation of a new constitution could increase tensions and flare into a renewed conflict, which may drive displacement within South Sudan and across the borders in 2024. This demands continued attention and support from the Government, RRP partners and donors.

The Federal Government of Ethiopia has a long tradition of an open-door policy, allowing persons in need of international protection to have access to its territory. However, since November 2021, due to the State of Emergency declared after the eruption of conflict in the Tigray region, registration of new arrivals was suspended. UNHCR estimates that there are around 77,000 non-registered asylum-seekers due to this suspension. However, in principle, except for 273 individuals registered as asylum-seekers who must undergo refugee status determination (RSD), all other South Sudanese are prima facie refugees. Guidelines on access to asylum for persons in need of international protection fleeing to Ethiopia from South Sudan are under review in consultation with RRS.

In collaboration with the Government, RRP partners promote livelihood opportunities for refugees, including advocacy with relevant authorities to issue work permits, in line with the pledge made by the Government of Ethiopia at the 2019 Global Refugee Forum (GRF), while also actively seeking partnerships with the private sector to create more job opportunities for refugees. However, the majority of South Sudanese refugees remain dependent on humanitarian assistance, with limited opportunities to gain employment and self-reliance in the camps. Education, food security and nutrition, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), health, and shelter remain among the main urgent priorities for the South Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia. Lack of adequate services for the refugee population exacerbates protection risks, including heightening risks of gender-based violence (GBV). Investing in the quality enhancement of these services in different sectors to meet the standards will deliver dividends in terms of protection.

The unstable security situation in both Gambella and Benishangul-Gumuz has resulted in movement restrictions and reduced employment opportunities for the refugees and the host community. It also poses additional access challenges in the provision of humanitarian assistance.

Country Risks and Needs

South Sudanese refugees are a resilient population and benefit from the generosity of the Government and the people of Ethiopia, however, they face several challenges and are exposed to multiple protection risks.

Among the protection risks is the lack of valid refugee identification cards (IDs). As of 31 December 2023, Ethiopia hosted 418,749 South Sudanese refugees, and at least 213,255 aged 14 years and above are eligible for refugee IDs. However, 97 per cent of them do not have valid refugee IDs, as many have expired following the declaration of a country-wide State of Emergency in November 2021, which impacted registration and documentation activities for refugees in the whole country. 19 per cent of the families also do not have proof of registration as registration of new arrivals from South Sudan was suspended since April 2022 when the Pagak entry point was closed. Household-level registration for the South Sudanese new arrivals from Pochalla entering Pugnido is ongoing. Individual biometric registration will start in 2024, contingent upon receiving approval from RRS. The South Sudanese refugee population is over 62 per cent under the age of 18 years. Many of the children are identified as being at risk, such as, child spouses, child mothers, children engaged in child labour and others. These children require comprehensive services that respond to their needs, including family tracing and reunification, alternative care, health assistance, psychosocial support, education, etc. Based on various child protection needs assessments, environmental risks (bushes, forests, stagnant water, wild animals, etc.) are the highest risks leading to death or injury of refugee children. The other major risks for refugee children are violence, exploitation and neglect by parents and caregivers, sexual violence, child marriage, psychological violence, and inter-tribal/ethnic violence. In addition, there is a scarcity of programmes aimed at addressing the needs of the youth, who represent 23 per cent of the total refugee population. Community-based protection mechanisms,

including child protection committees, child-led groups, foster parent network, youth committees and other groups in Gambella are contributing to addressing the protection needs of the population.

It is estimated that at least 16 per cent of the population are people with disabilities who may have limited assistance, largely due to resource constraints and the absence of specialized services. Girls and boys with disabilities are at risk of physical and emotional maltreatment, including being denied education, prohibited from playing and socializing with peers and stigmatization. Unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) are at risk of GBV, dropping out of school and other protection issues.

Refugee women and girls also face GBV risks, including the threat of child and forced marriages, as well as sexual violence. Due to a culture of silence and family pressure to resolve GBV incidents through amicable/out-of-court settlement as well as impunity or perpetrators, GBV incidents are rarely reported.

Between June to October 2023, there was a pause imposed on food assistance for all populations in Ethiopia, due to suspicions of food aid diversion. This pause affected forcibly displaced people across Ethiopia, including South Sudanese refugees. During field work and individual case management, RRP partners witnessed a high level of stress among the South Sudanese refugee children and the increased vulnerability to various protection risks, including family separation, child labour, sexual exploitation and child and forced marriage especially for women and girls. The general food distribution resumed at the end of September 2023. The vulnerability of food insecurity of the refugees is also aggravated by the measles outbreak in affecting children in 2023 in Gambella.

There is a need to build resilience and livelihoods for the refugees to reduce aid dependency. By the end of 2023, only 5 per cent of the working-age (18-64) refugee population, a total of close to 9,800 South Sudanese families and 2,700 host community members received livelihood support. In addition, RRS issued over 3,700 work permits for employed refugees and more than 2,700 residence permits for refugees engaged in joint projects with host communities. More refugees need to access work permits in order to be self-reliant.

Due to a lack of resources, there are no core relief items in the pipeline for 2024, despite growing needs in the South Sudanese refugee population. However, clothing items have been received from a private donor and will be distributed to the refugee population in Benishangul Gumuz and Gambella regions.

Part 2: Ethiopia Country Protection and Solutions Strategy

The strategy for the Refugee Response Plan for South Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia is aligned with the national 10-year Perspective Development Plan for Ethiopia, the Ethiopia Refugee Proclamation 2019, the United Nations Development Country Framework (UNSDCF), and the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR). The Government of Ethiopia made 6 pledges at the Global Refugee Forum in 2023 on climate action, human settlement, inclusion of refugees into national systems, private sector engagement, access to land, and digital connectivity and access to documentation.

Guided by the above, the RRP partners will focus on the protection of new refugees that arrived from Pochalla in 2023, including improvement of services to the existing refugee population, support to the Government on the potential commencement of biometric registration in 2024, as well as supporting South Sudanese refugees to achieve higher levels of self-reliance, including through advocating for and promoting access to livelihoods opportunities. Moreover, the focus will be on strengthened community-based protection mechanisms for the South Sudanese refugee population. RRP partners will work closely with national and regional authorities to advance the inclusion of refugees in national systems, including within the health and education sectors. As the refugee population depends on food assistance, RRP partners will implement new frameworks to guide general food distribution in the refugee sites, reinforcing protection monitoring, community engagement, food data management and reporting. In addition, RRP partners will continue to work together to identify and implement initiatives for sustainable food security, including using cash modalities.

Country Strategic Objective

SO1: Support authorities in maintaining the right to seek and enjoy asylum and strengthen protection services for refugees.

Advocacy will be key to ensuring that South Sudanese refugees continue to enjoy prima facie refugee status recognition in Ethiopia. Where individual status determinations are required, the process must be simplified and accessible. RRP partners will continue to work with governments to improve asylum capacity management in reception at borders and the protection environment in the settlements. RRP partners will support the authorities in documentation including birth registration. Community-based protection approaches will be key to ensuring that the specific age, gender, and diversity needs of the refugees are addressed. Legal and psychosocial counselling and assistance to refugees will be key to strengthening protection.

SO2: Enhance the inclusion of South Sudanese refugees in national systems and promote self-reliance.

Support will be provided to implement the 2019 Refugee Proclamation, the Global Refugee Forum pledges made by the Government and the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees. RRP partners will work closely with national and regional authorities to include refugees into national systems and services, including health and education. Support for self-reliance will assist refugees to contribute to the growth and development of their host communities and reduce their dependence on aid. It involves expanding access to livelihood opportunities, increasing access to arable land for crop production, building supply chains and investing in agricultural value chains. Self-reliance also focuses on advancing refugees' access to financial services.

SO3: Foster peaceful co-existence between refugees and their hosts.

Through close coordination and collaboration with humanitarian and development partners, national, regional and local authorities, RRP partners will support the peaceful co-existence between refugees and their hosts. This includes supporting greater access to renewable energy to avoid depleting scarce environmental resources, which may add to tension between refugees and their host communities.

Sectoral Responses

PROTECTION

With the signing of the Joint Registration Strategy (2023-2026) between UNHCR and the RRS on 6 October 2023, both parties are committed to providing valid documents to all refugees in Ethiopia, including South Sudanese, in the countrywide documentation and registration exercise. RRP partners will continue to provide refugees with information on the registration and documentation process.

Issuance of work permits in Gambella, Ethiopia. ©UNHCR/Reath Riek

RRP partners will advocate with the authorities to continue the application of prima facie recognition or apply simplified RSD procedures. The Government and regional authorities will ensure presence at border entry points to facilitate access to the asylum system for the refugees. The capacities of local authorities, especially immigration and other government actors at border points,

will be strengthened on international protection and refugee law, with emphasis on access to territory/asylum and non-refoulement.

It is projected that in 2024, as many as 78,000 South Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia will have resettlement needs based on their assessed individual vulnerabilities or on a broader pattern of needs. These include South Sudanese refugees displaced by the conflict that impacted the Tongo and Gure camps in the Benishangul-Gumuz Region and others in Gambella, Addis Ababa and elsewhere. Eligible cases for resettlement will be submitted based on available quotas for resettlement consideration and other complementary pathways, including education and labour. Protection interventions will also include a cash component for individual cases.

Sub-Sector: Child Protection

Child protection key priority areas for 2024 will include identification and support to children at risk, specifically focusing on unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), as well as those who have experienced child abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence. In collaboration with other sectors and community-based structures, child protection partners will support identified at-risk children through the Best Interest Procedures (BIP), and support to alternative care arrangements. Collaboration with health and other relevant actors will be leveraged to enhance child-friendly services and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). Child participation will be promoted, providing opportunities for children to express themselves through different forums and recreational activities in child-friendly spaces. Community structures including parents' groups, Child Protection Committees, will be involved to ensure positive parenting and protection of children. The mainstreaming of child protection into other sectors will be strengthened through training for sector staff and improved case referral mechanisms and this will include working with food security and education partners, to strengthen child-friendly services in schools and during food distribution. Capacity-building and collaboration with community-based child protection structures, such as Child Protection Committees, child-led clubs, and the foster parents' network, will be critical. Training and coaching will cover aspects such as BIP, identifying and referring child protection risks, birth registration, and preventing child marriage.

RRP partners will work with the Government to strengthen a comprehensive child protection programme aligned to the National CP strategy and standard operating procedures In collaboration with the Regional Vital Events Registration Agency, Institut National des Statistiques, the RRS, the Ministry of Health, and the Central Statistics Agency (CSA) and the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs, advocacy efforts will be intensified to include refugee children into the national child protection system including for birth registration. RRP partners provide a fairly comprehensive programme on prevention and response to GBV. This includes survivor-centred GBV services as well as awareness campaigns and community-based initiatives aimed at safeguarding the rights and dignity of refugee women and girls but remain constrained by resources. RRP partners also support and other sectors efforts to mitigate the risks of GBV within their own programmes.

Sub-sector: Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

In 2024, RRP Partners aim to provide a comprehensive programme on prevention, risk mitigation and response to GBV. This includes strengthening survivor-centred GBV services as well as awareness campaigns and community-based initiatives aimed at safeguarding the rights and dignity of refugee women and girls. Safety audits conducted jointly with the sectors will be regularly undertaken to identify GBV risks and barriers to services and identify appropriate measures to ensure the safety and well-being of refugee women and girls. Partners will continue to raise awareness on rights and to provide skills-building activities to empower refugee women and girls. Capacity strengthening for RRP partners in all sectors will focus on GBV risk mitigation mainstreaming, which will facilitate safe access to services, particularly for vulnerable populations. Specialized training for partners offering GBV services will include gender equality, safe disclosure and referrals, case management, clinical management of rape and other topics determined by the target audience and context.

Coordinated and effective programming will include strengthening survivor-centred inter-agency referral systems. The GBV Information Management System (GBVIMS) will be used to safely and effectively collect, store, analyze and share data on GBV incidents to inform appropriate GBV programming. Community-based structures and engagement efforts will be supported, including establishing and reinforcing peace committees in refugee camps and host communities. Increased communication with communities' activities, including developing and disseminating messages to support the work of community structures on prevention and available services, will be undertaken.

EDUCATION

In Gambella and Benishangul-Gumuz, partners will continue to provide comprehensive capacity-building initiatives for early childhood care and education (ECCE) facilitators, as well as primary and secondary school teachers. These programmes will encompass training on teaching methodologies, education information management, and adherence to a code of conduct. Moreover, a key focus for education partners will be enhancing child protection activities within education centres and schools, which contribute to maintaining quality learning. This includes initiatives to improve the learning environment and enhancing accessibility for all students by implementing inclusive and active learning strategies tailored to the diverse needs of children. The rehabilitation of ECCE centres, safe, accessible and gender-sensitive latrines, and water facilities in the camps and settlements is planned, accompanied by support for indoor and outdoor learning and play materials. Communities will be encouraged to participate in the back-to-school campaigns for the academic year 2024/2025. In 2024, the target is to increase Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) to 45.4 per cent for ECCE in Gambella and 67.7 per cent in Benishangul-Gumuz. Likewise, the GER target for primary is 63 per cent for Gambella and 82 per cent for Benishangul-Gumuz while the secondary target for Gambella is 26.5 per cent and 38.33 per cent for Benishangul-Gumuz.

Additionally, RRP Partners will continue to support the progressive transfer of refugee secondary schools to the Regional Education Bureau administration and management. Jewi, Pinyudo and Sherkole secondary schools, have already been transitioned to Government but will continue to receive some support determined in collaboration with the REBs. These overarching priorities will be complemented by sustained targeted support for girls with the aim to retain them in schools and ensure safe and accessible education, as well as a concerted effort to improve intersectoral coordination through collaboration with education working groups in areas such as child protection, GBV WASH and Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion with a particular focus on child safeguarding measures and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA).

FOOD SECURITY

South Sudanese refugees are food insecure due to insecurity, conflict, inflation, effects of climate change, such as drought and floods, and lack of resources to invest in food security. RRP partners and the Government have developed frameworks to guide general food distribution in refugee settings. In 2024, RRP partners will explore targeting food assistance based on protection and vulnerability criteria, continue to work to strengthen systems and mechanisms around food distribution, distribute emergency food rations, and ensure protection monitoring of general food distribution. Refugees will receive food assistance aligning with the agreed caloric value, likely to go below the current 60 per cent of the recommended dietary allowance based on available resource allocation and projections for 2024. RRP partners will continue to work together to advance sustainable food security and livelihood opportunities, including by exploring and prioritizing the use of in-kind and cash modalities based on assessments of the local context.

PUBLIC HEALTH & NUTRITION

In 2024, RRP Partners will prioritize comprehensive primary health care services, including sexual and reproductive health and health services for GBV survivors, management of common non-communicable diseases and mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS). Medical referrals for secondary and tertiary health care in government health facilities will be supported. The community outreach workforce will be engaged to enhance preventive and promotive health care and assure functional community-based health and nutrition surveillance systems. Capacity-building of healthcare workers will be supported. Malaria prevention, control and management and outbreak preparedness and response will be implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. Preparedness plans for disease outbreaks will be updated and stockpiles and early response maintained in coordination with Woreda health authorities. Nutrition service delivery will focus on nutrition-sensitive and specific actions. Priority will be placed on malnutrition screening of children and pregnant and lactating women which will include mothers and caretakers being trained in family Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) screening; Community management of acute malnutrition; Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) programmes, including the use of Mother-to-Mother Support Groups and Father-to-Father Support Groups; and micronutrient supplementation as per Ministry of Health guidelines. Multi-sectoral collaboration with other sectors such as WASH, food security, child protection, livelihoods and shelter, will be strengthened. Nutrition surveillance activities, including annual standardized nutrition surveys, will also be undertaken.

LIVELIHOODS & RESILIENCE (AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION)

Abobo agricultural project for youth from the host community in Gambella, Ethiopia.

The response will expand the number of refugees and host community members accessing agriculture and livestock inputs as well as training. RRP partners will advocate for more land for crop production. Additional work permits requested to support entrepreneurial activities for refugees engaged in joint projects with host communities. Other income-generating activities will include food, beauty, commodity trade, transport services, small-scale manufacturing (sanitary pads and soap production) and recycling cans and plastics. Support will also continue to expand the village savings and loan associations.

In 2024, RRP Partners will focus on expanding large-scale crop production by advocating for arable land and building local supply chains. Livestock interventions will focus on increasing production and revenues from dairy, small ruminants, and poultry sectors. Financial inclusion will be extended through a wider range of commercial providers and digital lenders. Large-scale projects by the World Bank will create employment opportunities through public works and livelihoods for refugees and host community members.

SETTLEMENT & SHELTER/HOUSING

In 2024, RRP Partners will seek to empower and engage refugees and host communities to upgrade or rehabilitate their own shelters by providing cash assistance for work and shelter repair kits. For adequate, accessible, and safe shelter provision, RRP Partners will prioritize targeted assistance for the most vulnerable families with some 600 new transitional shelters. Prioritization will also be made for those whose transitional shelters collapsed due to wear and tear and those with large families living in crowded conditions.

Moreover, RRP Partners will prioritize advocacy for additional land in the Gambella region for over 80 ha for immediate shelter and settlement space for the newly arriving refugees from Pochalla country in South Sudan. Settlement extension in Punyido will require emergency shelters, development or upgrading of public infrastructures to benefit both refugees and host communities, including improving 10.5km main access and internal earth roads, and construction of drainage systems including 10 culverts in order to mitigate surface run off for purpose of environmental protection.

WASH

RRP partners will implement a community engagement strategy to improve latrine coverage, access, maintenance, and general operation of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities. One of the priorities for 2024 will be to replace diesel-powered water systems with solarization systems, aiming to reduce operational costs and negative environmental impact. The other priorities will include upgrading the water network system and optimizing the water supply system by drilling additional boreholes and constructing new water storage reservoirs. The target will be to achieve 20 litres per person per day. The needs of older people and people with disabilities will be considered in the WASH activities. The communal latrines and bathing shelters will be safe, accessible and gender segregated.

Soap production in Jewi refugee camp, Gambella, Ethiopia

© UNHCR/Reath Riek;

BASIC NEEDS

Additionally, RRP Partners will collaborate with the RRS, the Cash Working Group and the Refugee Returnee Sub-Cash Working Group to sustain Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) at scale. Partners will engage with bilateral actors to strengthen national, shock-responsive Social Safety Nets (SSNs) and gradually introduce sectoral cash support. These partners are committed to engaging with development actors to enhance national, shock-responsive Social Safety Nets (SSNs), advocating for the inclusion of refugees within these systems. The partners are progressively exploring the possibility of introducing sectoral cash support across various sectors, such as Shelter, Non-Food Items (SHNFI), Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), and Livelihoods. Through the Cash Working Group, RRP partners are committed to supporting and providing tools for the systematic de-duplication of cash assistance across humanitarian actors, wherever feasible. In the Gambella region, RRP Partners will endeavour to monetize parts of the food assistance and provision of CRIs and other non-food items (NFIs) through a pilot project in the Jewi refugee camp. In the Benishangul-Gumuz region, partners will seek to provide cash for shelter to allow refugees to repair or upgrade their shelters. Due to a lack of resources, there are no non-food items in the pipeline for 2024, despite growing needs in the South Sudanese refugee population. However, clothing items have been received from a private donor and will be distributed to the refugee population in Benishangul-Gumuz and Gambella regions.

LOGISTICS, SUPPLY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Due to the volatile security situation, transportation within the Benishangul-Gumuz Region, to Gambella and to the capital of Addis Ababa, is challenging. The response aims to orchestrate the seamless delivery of communications and technology services in areas facing refugee emergencies. Key to this initiative is the establishment of Security Operation Centres (SOC) that operate around-the-clock. The SOCs are pivotal in receiving real-time alerts, streamlining response strategies, and broadcasting essential information, acting as nerve centres in crises. The strategy underscores the importance of advanced communication tools. The Information and Communications Technology (ICT) will maintain the internet connectivity, VSAT, VHF radios, satellite phones and other equipment with an emphasis on satellite phones, recognizing the reality of compromised network infrastructure in many emergency areas.

Partnership and Coordination

The coordination is led by the RRS on behalf of the Government of Ethiopia and co-led by UNHCR. The coordination includes the network of federal, regional, and local authorities, NGO and UN partners, and community-based organizations, including refugee-led and women-led organizations. An Inter-Agency Refugee Coordination Group composed of the UN agencies, NGOs, INGOs and other partners meet in Addis Ababa every second month to discuss coordination and alignment of activities and interventions in support of refugees in Ethiopia. Moreover, every quarter, meetings are held with donors in Addis Ababa to brief on the refugee response in the country and the current gaps and needs of the refugee population. The meeting is chaired by the Director General of the RRS and the UNHCR Representative. Progress, gaps and challenges are shared during the field-level coordination meetings, enabling partners to coordinate on the necessary response. Inter-agency sectoral needs assessment will be conducted to manage resources and respond in a coordinated manner.

In line with the Ten-year National Comprehensive Refugee Response Strategy, Ethiopia's Growth and Transformation Plan and the GCR, RRP partners will assist the Government in implementing the response as well as its commitment to pledges towards an integrated approach to refugee assistance, strengthening self-reliance, and reinforcing solutions strategies. Refugees are included in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2020 - 2025.

The 23 partners in the 2024 response will promote quality assurance mechanisms, including monitoring through regular field visits, weekly/monthly coordination meetings at sub-office and camp levels, sharing timely information, reinforcing partners' capacities, and coordinating sectoral interventions to avoid duplication. To promote localisation and inclusion in programming, capacity-building will be provided to national and community-level institutions, including refugee-led groups.

Inter-Agency Financial Requirements

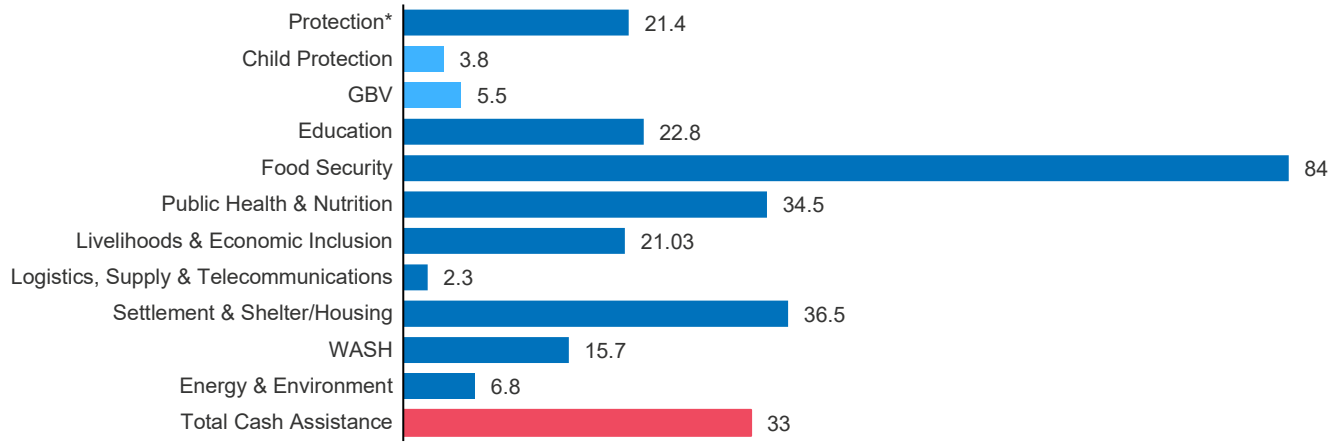
23 Partners involved	6 UN Agencies	14 International NGOs	3 National NGOs
	$ 202,227,312	$ 34,209,202	$ 8,686,000
		4 FBOs	1 FBOs
		$ 5,310,500	$ 3,456,000

***Notes**: This list only includes appealing organizations under the RRP, many of which collaborate with implementing partners to carry out RRP activities. See 'Budget Summary by Partner' for partner breakdown per type. The amount listed for the FBOs, RLOs and WLOs are subsets of the amount listed above for the International NGOs and National NGOs.*

Total Financial Requirements In USD **$ 245.1 M**

Budget summary by sector at country level

Million in USD



** CP and GBV budgets are subsets of the Protection budget.*

Total Protection requirements
$ 21,420,711

Other protection activities	Of which GBV	Of which Child Protection
$ 12,081,202 56% of total	$ 5,494,682 26% of total	$ 3,844,828 18% of total

Total Cash Assistance requirements*
$ 33,160,412

Protection	Food security	Livelihoods & Resilience	
$ 300,000	$ 22,880,412	$ 8,780,000	
Education	Public Health & Nutrition	Settlement & Shelter/Housing	WASH
$ 100,000	$ 250,000	$ 750,000	$ 100,000

** This is a breakdown by sector of the requirements for cash assistance which are included in the above total sectoral budgets. Cash assistance is pursued and reflected as a key modality of assistance and protection in line with UNHCR's CBI Policy 2022-2026. Cash assistance is used as a cross-cutting modality across the various sectors, including protection, and is budgeted for accordingly and in line with a basic needs approach. As the modality of choice of the people we work with, cash assistance will be used as the primary means to meet immediate basic needs and provide important protection outcomes.*

Budget Summary by Partner

Partner	Acronym / Short Title	Type	Requirements in US$
INGOs			**34,209,202**
Action Against Hunger	ACF	INGO	2,700,000
Comitato Internazionale Per Lo Sviluppo Dei Popoli	CISP	INGO	486,708
DanChurchAid	DCA	INGO/FBO	1,000,000
Doctors with Africa CUAMM	CUAMM	INGO	1,000,000
GOAL	GOAL	INGO	1,050,000
HelpAge International, UK	HelpAge	INGO	1,400,000
International Medical Corps	IMC	INGO	1,520,000
International Rescue Committee	IRC	INGO	600,000
Lutheran World Federation	LWF	INGO/FBO	760,000
Mercy Corps	MC	INGO	6,500,000
Norwegian Church Aid	NCA	INGO/FBO	600,500
Norwegian Refugee Council	NRC	INGO	8,500,000
Plan International	PIE	INGO	5,141,994
ZOA International	ZOA	INGO/FBO	2,950,000
National INGOs			**8,686,000**
Action for the Needy in Ethiopia	ANE	NNGO	5,000,000
African Humanitarian Aid and Development Agency	AHADA	NNGO	230,000
Ethiopian Orthodox Church Development and Interchurch Aid Commission Refugee and Returnee Affairs Department	EOC-DICAC/RRAD	NNGO/FBO	3,456,000
UN Agencies			**202,227,312**
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	FAO	UN	11,620,000
International Organization for Migration	IOM	UN	1,500,000
United Nations Children's Fund	UNICEF	UN	1,554,956
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	UNHCR	UN	105,081,727
United Nations Population Fund	UNFPA	UN	2,500,000
United Nations World Food Programme	WFP	UN	79,970,629
			Total: $ 245,122,514

Members of the refugee association called "Bright Hope for All" during the certification ceremony after completing a soap production training accredited by Sheger Chemicals and Detergents Manufacturing PL© UNHCR / Daniela Acevedo;

A refugee from South Sudan, poses with maize she harvested from her farm in Nguenyyiel refugee camp, Gambela, Ethiopia.

© UNHCR/Samuel Otieno

Kenya Planned Response

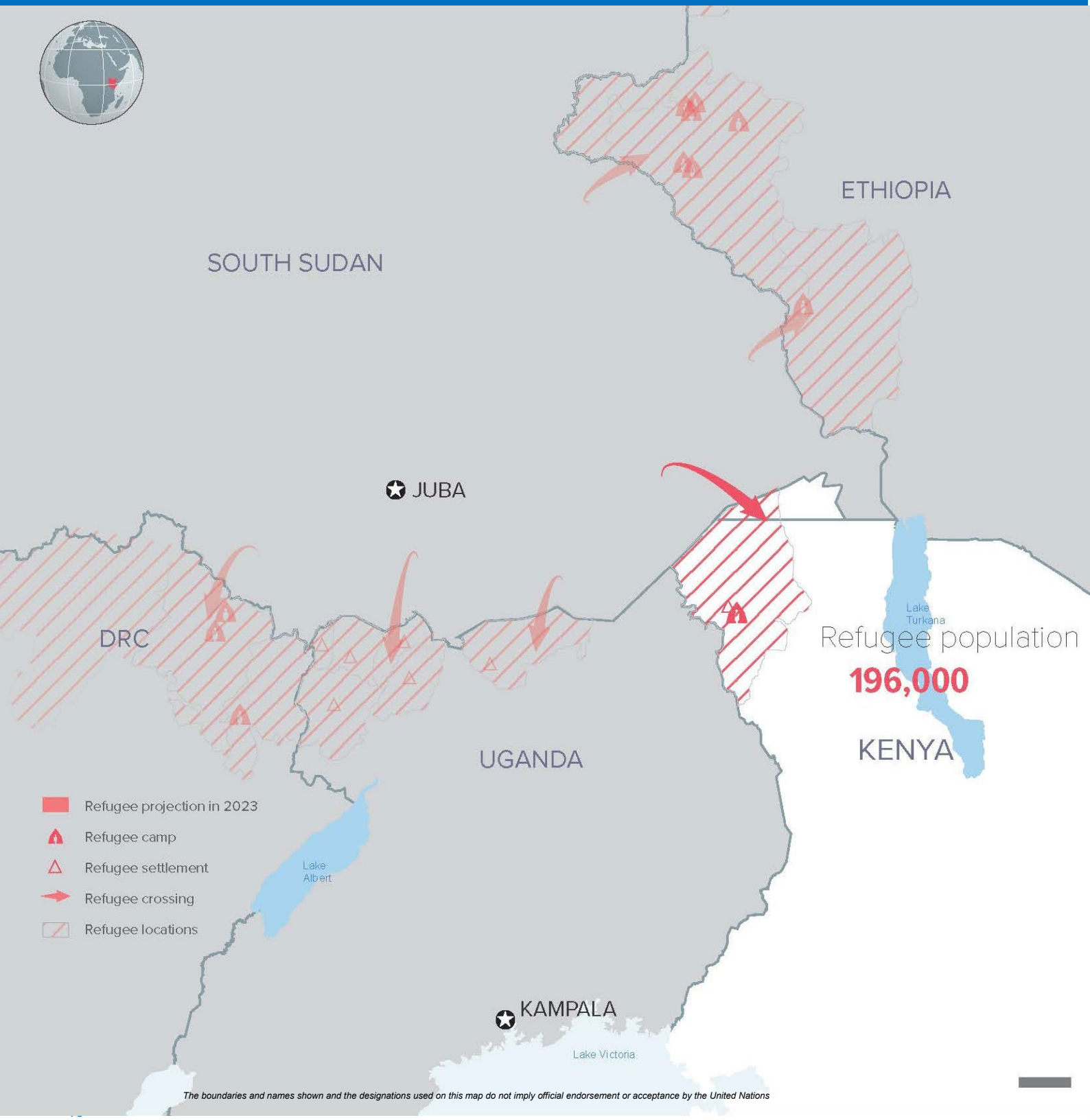
January-December 2024

196,000
Projected refugee population

45,000
Assisted host community population

USD 134 M
Total financial requirements

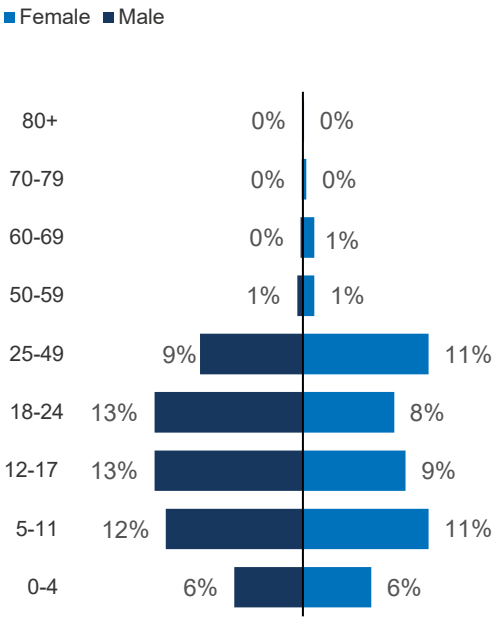
22
Partners



Population Planning Figures

Country	Population as of end of 2023	Planned Population as of end of 2024
Targeted Refugee Population		
Refugee Population	173,350	196,205
Total	**173,350**	**196,205**
Targeted Host Population		
Country	88,197	45,000
Total	**88,197**	**45,000**

Age and gender breakdown



16% of total 196k
People with disabilities

46%
Women and girls

54%
Men and boys

57%
Girls and boys

Part 1: Current Situation

Situation Overview

Since its inception in 1992, the Kakuma refugee programme has hosted refugees from across the region, mainly from South Sudan and Somalia. Drastic changes in population dynamics have occurred over time, particularly concerning South Sudanese refugees, who have been the centre of the strategic directions of the Kakuma refugee response for many years.

Kakuma camp and Kalobeyei settlement in Turkana West Sub-County, Turkana County, are home to 269,890 refugees and asylum-seekers, including 159,677 South Sudanese, as of 31 December 2023. The camp population is multinational and multilingual, with South Sudanese representing 59 per cent of the population and Somalis 14 per cent. The other nationalities include refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Burundi, Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda, Rwanda, Eritrea, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Republic of the Congo, Zimbabwe, Yemen, Afghanistan, Egypt, the Central African Republic, Saudi Arabia, Chad and the Comoros. For the past three years, there have been significant increases in population due to the spontaneous arrival of refugees and asylum-seekers and natural growth. In 2022,

Kakuma registered 22,000 new arrivals and 6,117 new births, while in 2023, some 30,926 new arrivals have been recorded, including 7,795 currently pending registration, along with 4,774 new births. The Kakuma operation projects a population of 196,205 South Sudanese by the end of 2024.

Turkana County, where Kakuma camp and Kalobeyei settlement are located, is among the country's poorest and most sparsely populated regions. Kakuma also faces serious climatic challenges, including the drought in 2022 and El-Niño in 2023, along with an unpredictable security environment, leading to the need for significant funding.

The Shirika Plan, currently under development by the Government of Kenya aims to facilitate the transition from refugee camps and humanitarian programmes to integrated settlements in which refugees and host communities would live together and benefit from inclusion in national services and have more opportunities for self-reliance and economic development. Refugee response partners adhere to the collective vision set out in the Kalobeyei Integrated Socio-Economic Development Plan (KISEDP). KISEDP, led by the Turkana County Government with support from UNHCR, is a 15-year plan that aims to bridge the gap between humanitarian assistance and development. KISEDP Phase II (2023-2027) and the government's Shirika Plan aim to build the skills and capabilities of refugees and host communities to function in this new environment and expand the local economy. Stakeholders involved in the response include development actors, the private sector, microfinance institutions, banks, academia, and civil society. In addition, the Government is currently developing regulations to guide the implementation of the Refugees Act, 2021, which came into effect in February 2022, and in March 2023 Kakuma was conferred municipality status, promoting transformative change, attracting investors and creating employment opportunities.

UNHCR in Kenya has taken steps towards strengthening the institutions that serve refugees, including the handover of responsibility for registration, documentation and refugee status determination (RSD) to the Government's Department of Refugee Services (DRS) and expanding the inclusion of refugees in national programmes relating to education, healthcare and social protection.

Country Risks and Needs

In Kenya, the right to freedom of movement is restricted by the Government's encampment policy, which is reaffirmed in the Refugees Act, 2021. The Government issues movement passes to refugees who have valid reasons for leaving the camps, including for education and medical referrals. Refugees found outside the camps without authorization are subject to arrest, detention and prosecution.

Kenya continues to be impacted by climatic, political, and security situations across the region, and it is receiving significant numbers of new arrivals. The refugees are hosted in Turkana County which is one of the most vulnerable regions in Kenya with resources, infrastructure, environment and public services impacted by the refugee influx since 1992. As Kakuma Camp enters its 31st year, and as the Kalobeyei settlement enters its fifth year of establishment, the refugee population while growing in resilience, continue to face particular risks and have substantive needs. Refugees arriving in Kakuma and Kalobeyei are often vulnerable and require specialized assistance. Women and children are most at risk and are prioritized by the response partners.

The refugee population is 57 per cent children with one per cent of the child population estimated to be children with disabilities and with a small number disclosing lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer/questioning (LGBTIQ+) identities. Refugee children are at risk of violence, child abduction, blood revenge, child labour, neglect, psychosocial distress, female genital mutilation (FGM), sexual violence and other forms of gender-based violence (GBV), teenage pregnancy, child marriage, and limited access to justice. These children require family-based care, family tracing and reunification, psychosocial counselling and access to best-interest procedures. Refugee children and their families struggle with psychosocial distress emanating from living in the challenging camp environment coupled with the economic hardship of being dependent on aid. Children with disability, including those among the host community population, are among those most at risk. One of the primary child protection concerns is the high proportion

of unaccompanied and separated children (9,707 children) requiring family-based care, family tracing, reunification and regular monitoring and case follow-up.

Adolescents and young people lack opportunities for meaningful participation, with a significant proportion engaged in negative coping mechanisms, including alcohol and substance abuse and teenage pregnancies. A high proportion of young people are also at risk of dropping out of school, especially secondary education, due to lack of ability to pay fees. There are limited opportunities to engage young people in livelihoods opportunities while those who complete. The youth population (18-34 years) is 31 per cent of the refugee population, with 61 per cent being male. While there are secondary schools, there are limited opportunities for tertiary education.

South Sudanese refugees in Kakuma are vulnerable to GBV including rape, sexual assault, forced marriage, physical assault, and emotional/socioeconomic abuse (including denial of resources, opportunities and services), with the major drivers of GBV being harmful social norms and economic hardship caused by inflation and rising prices of goods and services that pre-dispose women and girls to exploitation.

Community-based child protection mechanisms require further strengthening. This entails a focus on working with schools and learning centres to address and safeguard against GBV, including sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and violence against children in such institutions.

In 2023, Kenya received 8,656 onward movers from other countries of asylum (including 694 who had initially sought asylum in South Sudan), of whom 5,312 remain unregistered while 3,344 have been registered but are on hold pending possible return to countries of first asylum (as per instructions from the Government of Kenya); the majority of onward movers claim to have moved on to Kenya due to reductions in food assistance, drought, and limited access to education and other services. The onward movers who arrived in Kenya have not been returned to their countries due to lack of funding and because countries of first asylum have expressed reluctance to receive them back. The onward movers are accommodated in the reception centres in Kakuma and Kalobeyei which have become overcrowded, and the numbers strain the limited services. Since the beginning of 2023, the two reception centres have accommodated as many as 14,000 people at a time despite significant reductions in funding and relocation to the camps hampered by the lack of land to expand settlement areas. The delay in relocating new arrivals has led to long-term stays in the reception centres, worsening overcrowding, triggering undignified conditions and other protection risks for women and girls or other individuals with specific needs, and preventing children from accessing education.

The water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) distribution networks in Kakuma Camp was designed 30 years ago for a population less than half the size of the current camp, and therefore, expanding and upgrading the system to meet the current needs is a challenge. The network in Kalobeyei has been developed more recently, but the growing population is straining the system's capacity, which consists of 22 boreholes connected to water tap stands located close to their shelter blocks/neighbourhoods. On average, refugees access 16 litres per person per day against the standard of 20 litres per person per day, and water supply is unequally distributed across the settlements due to technical, operational and management factors that reduce water production. Only 51 per cent of refugees in Kakuma and 67 per cent in Kalobeyei are estimated to have access to household latrines as per November 2021 Latrine Census & Knowledge Attitude and Practice Survey report, while the current latrine coverage stood at 69 per cent for Kakuma camp and 68 per cent Kalobeyei settlement as per November 2022 Latrine census/ Knowledge Attitude and Practice survey.

A Joint Assessment Mission was done at the start of 2023, and a joint plan of action was developed to assess needs and improve vulnerability targeting. Due to funding constraints, food security has been a challenge for South Sudanese and other refugees in Kakuma and Kalobeyei, with food assistance reducing to 60 per cent of the standard distribution as of 1 August 2023. This has contributed to increased rates of malnutrition and stunting. This may overwhelm the healthcare system and contribute to harmful coping mechanisms to supplement food shortages.

The recently introduced government competency-based curriculum in camp schools requires significant investment in infrastructure, additional staffing, capacity development, regular assessment, and other related needs to address

increasing class sizes (on average more than 100 per classroom), enhance transition rates, and improve the quality of learning for refugee children. Adolescents and young people lack opportunities for meaningful participation, and many are engaged in harmful coping strategies, including alcohol and substance abuse. Many young people are at risk of dropping out of school as they feel the need to work to support their families. Those who complete secondary school have limited access to tertiary studies. Opportunities for youth to engage in livelihoods are also inadequate. As parents face challenges in raising their children in displacement, they require support, including strengthening family livelihoods, social protection, and capacity building in parental skills.

Refugees living in the camps and host communities have access to quality healthcare through hospitals and clinics funded by humanitarian partners. The National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) currently covers all households in the Kalobeyei settlement and the surrounding host community, and there are plans to expand coverage to Kakuma in 2024 and to transition to the Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF). The SHIF Bill has been signed into law but is awaiting regulations to be operationalized. This may materialize during 2024 or 2025. Recurrent disease outbreaks remain a concern due to overcrowding, poor hygiene and sanitation. Refugees suffer regular outbreaks of diseases with the greatest risks arising from unvaccinated new arrivals from neighbouring countries, congestion in settlement areas, and the inability to meet minimum standards in key areas, including WASH, shelter, and basic needs.

New arrivals are provided transitional shelters, but shelter needs have surpassed the response capacity to provide permanent shelters due to funding gaps. Land has been exhausted in Kakuma Camp and Kalobeyei Settlement, but there are proposed plans for the settlement approach, with funding from the World Bank.

Access to financial services and local markets is challenging and only a limited number of refugees have established businesses. The majority of refugees remain dependent on humanitarian assistance. Cash-based interventions (CBIs) are used to address basic needs, but with reduced funding, the entitlement (transfer value) and the number of beneficiaries reached has reduced. Even with targeted items for women and girls of reproductive age, it is challenging to meet these needs consistently.

Climate-related challenges, notably the drought in 2022 and 2023 and the El-Niño rains that started in October 2023 are expected to affect the region into 2024 with catastrophic consequences from flooding, including destruction of property, livelihoods and life.

Overall, limited resources and reduced access to basic services has resulted in crime rates increasing harmful coping mechanisms being adopted such as sale and exchange of sex, increased child labour, missing meals, and others. There is a need to maintain and, where necessary, increase staffing for partners to help address existing gaps and prevent staff burnout, particularly in child protection, GBV, WASH and reception management.

Part 2: Kenya Country Protection and Solutions Strategy

Over the past five years (2019-2023), the number of forcibly displaced men, women and children seeking asylum in Kenya has steadily increased to 61,880, with more than 18,626 South Sudanese new arrivals registered in 2023. and with displacements of refugees lasting more than 20 years on average. The humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach is critical in addressing the challenges of protracted displacement.

The humanitarian-development-peace nexus, focusing on refugee inclusion, self-reliance and resilience, is essential to achieving long-term sustainability and a transition towards enhanced government leadership and ownership, including through the provision of inclusive social services. RRP partners' interventions are designed to align with the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF). This requires continued support to the Refugee Act, 2021 and the Shirika Plan, which call for transitioning from closed camps to integrated settlements and providing inclusive social services in refugee-hosting areas.

The Government is currently holding multi-stakeholder consultations to develop the Shirika Plan. In line with Kenya's CRRF, and the Support for Host Community and Refugee Empowerment (SHARE) initiative, the Shirika Plan aims to

ease pressure on refugee-hosting communities in Garissa, Turkana, and urban areas by mobilizing additional financial, technical and material support in the spirit of responsibility sharing while enhancing refugee and host community self-reliance. At the county level, the Plan supports the implementation of the KISEDP Phase II in Turkana County and the Garissa Integrated Socio-Economic Plan (GISEDP) in Garissa County, along with the County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) in Turkana, Garissa and Nairobi counties.

In line with the strategies mentioned above, RRP partners will contribute to the transition from refugee camps to integrated settlements. Refugees and members of host communities will live together peacefully and in safety and dignity and will be included in national education, social protection, and healthcare service delivery. Refugees and host communities will have access to land for permanent housing, agriculture, and pastoralism and be supported to become self-reliant. Refugees will access durable and lasting solutions through voluntary repatriation, resettlement and complementary pathways, along with limited local solutions in Kenya. This aligns with county and national policies that affect the development of refugee hosting areas within the broader framework of devolution and urbanization of Kenya's Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) areas. The strategy seeks to balance growth and development and to facilitate enabling efficient service delivery, protection, and improved government engagement.

The Government of Kenya and partners will continue enhancing emergency preparedness and response to adverse weather including for potential additional waves of the COVID-19 pandemic; addressing recurring drought and flooding in refugee hosting areas; expanding border monitoring to ensure early warning in the event of an influx, especially in the context of climate-induced displacement, the worsening situation in Ethiopia, and potential increased conflict in South Sudan, Somalia and other countries in the region; ensuring continued engagement with the people we serve and partners.

Country Strategic Objectives

SO1: Maintaining asylum space and enhancing protection and the realization of the rights of South Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers.

This objective includes the following: Maintaining asylum space through promoting the protection-sensitive implementation of the Refugees Act, 2021 and updated Refugee Regulations; Subject to adequate international support, the Government of Kenya will continue to strengthen institutions and community structures that manage asylum, deliver services and provide security in refugee-hosting areas including by continuing the Security Partnership Project; Timely and efficient individual registration and documentation to enable access to services and assistance, and in turn promote socio-economic inclusion; strengthen institutions and community structures managing asylum; Promoting peaceful coexistence and strengthening community security structures; enhancing protection through a multi-functional approach;.

SO2: Providing quality, efficient and timely protection and other multi-sectoral assistance to South Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers and their host communities.

Protection and other multi-sectoral assistance will include critical areas such as child protection and prevention, response and risk mitigation of GBV. Efforts are being undertaken to enhance accountability with automated kiosks in place to enable refugees to access information and book appointments, while lines of communication are open to listen and respond to refugees' concerns (e.g., WhatsApp trees, community meetings, FGDs, etc). Basic needs like WASH, Shelter and energy are critical, and some can be covered by multi-purpose cash if amounts are sufficient to provide autonomy to refugees.

SO3: Including South Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers into national systems and enhancing economic inclusion.

Expanding inclusion in national systems by mainstreaming refugees in national and county health systems including through national health insurance programmes; supporting the implementation of Kenya's CRRF in the form of the Shirika Plan once fully developed and implemented; aligning school governance, teacher management, and curriculum delivery with national protocols and progressively advancing the inclusion of refugees in the national education system; expanding opportunities for higher education; promoting the inclusion of refugees in national social protection and safety net programmes; ensuring continued advocacy for inclusion of the people we serve in national registration and documentation systems; and supporting expanded access to civil registration services, including through improved interoperability of refugee databases.

Facilitating economic inclusion and self-reliance by expanding access to financial institutions, including microfinance programmes; advocating for refugees to be included in national and country development plans in line with the Refugees Act, 2021; strengthening vocational and technical training and professional development programmes based on market surveys; enhancing livelihoods and employment opportunities including through improved access to work permits; supporting increased investment and an enhanced business environment to create economic opportunities for refugees and host communities; engaging donors and development partners to invest in programmes that support self-reliance; ensuring all programmes benefit both refugees and members of host communities; and engaging more closely with line ministries, including the Ministry of Finance.

SO4: Enhancing durable solutions for South Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers.

Expanding access to durable solutions by advocating for the transition from camps to integrated settlements and providing support to the Government toward implementation of such plans; supporting the Government in establishing procedures for refugees to access alternative stay arrangements, including under the East African Community (EAC) option, while maintaining protection safeguards and standards; advocating for freedom of movement to allow refugees to engage in economic opportunities countrywide; advocating for sustainable, rights-based voluntary returns; advocating with donors and development partners to invest in countries of origin to facilitate sustainable reintegration; expanding opportunities for resettlement and complementary pathways; and advocating for resolution of the remaining situations of statelessness.

Sectoral Responses

PROTECTION

Key priorities to enhance protection will include advocacy to maintaining access to territory and asylum space and its humanitarian and civilian character, strengthening national asylum management systems and supporting the creation of a conducive environment that promotes long-term sustainable solutions. It will also involve strengthening access to multisectoral services for all persons of all ages, genders and diverse characteristics, and continuing to support increased use of refugee community-based organizations for delivery of protection and other services such as monitoring, identification and referral of individuals at risk, awareness rising, community -based care for people with disabilities, older persons and children. ; advocating for complementary solutions pathways such as education scholarships, labour mobility and community sponsorship beyond solely the traditional resettlement option; facilitating voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration where conditions are conductive to return in safety and dignity within the framework of the RRP response. Focus will also be on sports for protection, including supporting mental health and social cohesion and other youth engagement programmes to build on youth agency and capacity. Protection actors will

strengthen and focus on partnership structures to facilitate the integration of services in the camps and the socioeconomic inclusion of refugees within county-led plans. RRP partners will support authorities to ensure that reception and registration activities continue to be provided as stipulated under the law. Considering the ongoing rate of new arrivals, expanding reception capacity, including re-opening the Nadapal transit centre on the Kenya-South Sudan border, will be considered if funds are available, as well as maintaining the Kitale transit centre, unless otherwise indicated by the authorities, and the Kakuma and Kalobeyei reception centres. RRP partners will be encouraged to align their implementation arrangements and deliver services directly through cash as and when feasible while advancing implementation through community-based organizations, including those led by refugees and women, to the extent possible.

On durable solutions in 2024, less than 20 South Sudanese refugees in Kakuma will be supported to return to their home country based on anticipated expression of interest. Although there are frequent spontaneous returns to South Sudan, with a recorded number of 3,065 individuals returning from Kenya as of 30 November 2023, the projected number of assisted returns remains significantly lower because facilitated returns are not being actively promoted at present, and few refugees have come forward to request return. Additionally, as of October 2023, 298 South Sudanese refugees have been resettled, and 645 have active cases in the resettlement pipeline.

Sub-Sector: Child Protection

Child protection systems in Turkana County, including Kakuma and Kalobeyei camp and settlement, require further strengthening including capacity development of social workforce and coordination with relevant sub-national structures, including police, probation officers, courts and children's affairs officers to strengthen inclusion of refugee children in national child protection systems. Child protection at Kakuma and Kalobeyei Reception Centres will be strengthened ncluding construction and rehabilitation and effective running of child-friendly spaces, along with timely identification and registration of UASCs and vulnerable children, setting up effective case management systems and installations of indoor and outdoor recreational facilities. Alternative care arrangements for UASC, as well as tracing and reunification, will be ongoing activities. Adolescents and young people will be supported with opportunities for meaningful participation and activities implemented to discourage alcohol and substance abuse and teenage pregnancies. Child Protection partners will work with schools and learning centres to address and safeguard against GBV including sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and violence against children.

Sub-sector: Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

In 2024, RRP partners working on the GBV prevention and response programme will address harmful social norms that sustain GBV and provide multi-sectorial services, as well as support other sectors mainstreaming GBV risk mitigation in their interventions. Prevention activities will include mass awareness-raising on GBV and referral mechanisms, but also through longer-term interventions targeting men, boys women and girls aiming at addressing gender inequality, systemic discrimination, and power imbalances. Community mobilization will remain at the centre of future interventions, and refugees and host communities will increase participation in the prevention of GBV through capacity development and empowerment of men and women as actors of change. In pursuit of localization, RRP partners will identify community-based structures, engage refugee-led organizations (RLOs) and women refugee-led organizations, and build their capacities in prevention and response programming. In terms of response, survivor-centred specialized services will be enhanced to support the needs of all survivors including through strengthening GBV standard operating procedures and referral pathways and training frontline workers on safe disclosure and referral of GBV survivors. In addition, RRP partners will continue ensuring the integration of GBV risk mitigation measures into programming by the sectors,

The GBV programme will also address sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) of refugees by humanitarian workers and those in positions of privilege. The role of PSEA focal points in each agency will be strengthened, ensuring engagement

in the Kakuma PSEA Focal Point Network to share experiences on how to improve the coordination of activities related to SEA, as well as capacity building to staff in the field. Furthermore, SEA case management will remain directly connected to psychosocial support and related services, such as shelter relocation, medical and legal support, dignity kits and NFIs, education, and livelihoods. Most partners are signatories to Standard Operating Procedures that have been established for the reporting and handling of SEA cases.

EDUCATION

South Sudanese refugee students at Morneau Shepell Girls Secondary school in Kenya. © UNHCR/Charity Nzomo

The overall refugee education strategic goal is to ensure that all refugees and asylum-seekers have access to inclusive and equitable education and training that contributes to individual and collective resilience in Kenya and support the return to countries of origin and sustainable reintegration. Without both foundational skills and access to accredited education pathways, children may face barriers to earning potential and employment later in life. They are more likely to suffer adverse health outcomes and less likely to participate in the decisions that affect them and future generations, threatening their ability to build a better future for themselves and their communities. Access to education remains a priority as it is fundamentally protective, both in the medium term, after displacement and in the longer term, providing refugee children and youth with safe spaces for personal and academic development as well as significantly reducing young refugees' vulnerability to exploitation. In line with the Kenya's Education Act of 2013, the Constitution of Kenya 2010 that provides for the rights to every child's access to basic education, 1951 Refugee Convention, Convention of the Rights of the Child, and Sustainable Development Goal 4 as well as RRP partners' will continue to focus on improving access to accredited education, increase learning outcomes by enhancing provision of quality education and continue to advocate for inclusion of refugees in national education systems. Teachers' professional development and support, expansion of learning spaces, provision of teaching and learning materials/supplies, roll out of the new competency-based curriculum, provision of school meals, addressing issues of over-age learners and enrolment drives will remain key priorities. These measures will contribute to retaining children in schools and reduce the risk of exposure to neglect, violence, and exploitation.

FOOD SECURITY

Refugees will continue to be provided with food and nutrition assistance in camps and settlements. Efforts will be made to find resources to reinstate the full ration to achieve food security. In Kakuma, food assistance will be given monthly through a hybrid transfer modality consisting of mobile money-based electronic vouchers and in-kind food rations. Refugees in the Kalobeyei settlement will receive 100 per cent of the monthly food assistance through cash transfers. The food assistance package will also include treatment and prevention of acute malnutrition among children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women. Additionally, learners in UNHCR-supported primary schools will receive a daily hot lunch. Work will be done to develop a beneficiary transition strategy that is anchored on the Refugees Act, 2021, the Shirika Plan and KISEDP. This strategy will help to shift from status-based to needs-based food assistance, aiming to develop a framework that will graduate refugees from dependence on humanitarian assistance and ensure the most effective use of limited resources. Apart from food assistance, partners will also contribute to the resilience

and integration of refugees and host communities through the development of agricultural infrastructure in Kalobeyei, and through market and supply chain support in Kakuma and Kalobeyei, focusing on enhancing food systems for improved food security. Social and behaviour change communication activities will continue to augment food security and nutrition outcomes.

PUBLIC HEALTH & NUTRITION

In 2024, the RRP partners will aim to provide access to preventive, promotive, curative, and rehabilitative services including comprehensive, quality primary healthcare services, secondary and tertiary care, mental health and psychosocial support, health response to GBV survivors, and nutrition services in line with UNHCR Global Strategy for Public Health 2021-2025. To ensure sustainability, partners will continue working with the Government to facilitate inclusion of refugees into national programmes including in the national health insurance scheme. Partners will support all eight healthcare facilities to be stocked with essential medicines and medical supplies, and have adequate qualified and auxiliary staff to provide quality healthcare services including reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health services. Partners will ensure proper screening of new arrivals for communicable diseases and serious illnesses at reception centres, including early identification and treatment, vaccinations for all new arrivals (with emphasis on polio and measles), screening of all children below five years for moderate or severe malnutrition, and commencing immediate treatment for those identified. Outbreak preparedness and response plans including community-based surveillance will be implemented. Community management of acute malnutrition will be supported through outpatient therapeutic programmes for severe malnutrition, supplementary feeding programmes for moderate malnutrition, and blanket supplementary feeding programmes for pregnant and lactating women. Refugees will be enrolled into the national health insurance programme, providing a pathway for more sustainable healthcare financing. The response will also ensure coordination with the WASH sector in implementing integrated vector control and interventions to reduce morbidity and mortality from communicable diseases associated with inadequate water, sanitation, and hygiene standards. The National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) currently covers all households in the Kalobeyei settlement and the surrounding host community, and there are plans to expand coverage to Kakuma in 2024.

A South Sudanese woman works as a Community Health Volunteer in Kalobeyei settlement in Kenya, attending to refugee and host communities members

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LIVELIHOODS & RESILIENCE (AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION)

Current livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions have enhanced the skills and assets of South Sudanese refugees for increased self-reliance and business activity. RRP partners in Kakuma have worked with the Turkana County Government to implement KISEDP, involving private sector investment, provision of TVET training and business development services, and the construction of Huduma Biashara Centre in Kakuma jointly with the International Finance Corporation. While some notable progress has been made, challenges and gaps exist, including limited job opportunities

in refugee-hosting areas, limited access to financial services, limited freedom of movement, limited access to technical and vocational training opportunities and limited basic infrastructure.

Refugee women sell the vegetables to both Kenyans and refugees, making money to support their families in different ways including children with education materials.
© UNHCR/ Charity Nzomo

In 2024, RRP partners will continue working to create employment and income-generating opportunities for South Sudanese refugees and host communities in Kakuma in line with KISEDP, Kenya Vision 2030, Kampala Declaration on Jobs, Livelihoods and Self Reliance for Refugees, Returnees and Host Communities in the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Region, the Global Compact on Refugees and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. This will be achieved by promoting an enabling environment for socioeconomic integration of refugees and asylum-seekers, facilitating market-driven technical and entrepreneurial skill development, increasing access to financial services, facilitating investment in new and innovative value chains and economic sectors, and strengthening the capacity of refugee-led organizations.

Livelihoods projects will continue to prioritize women and girls with specific protection needs, including female heads of household, single mothers, and LGBTIQ+ people to promote independence, dignity, empowerment, and work towards closing the gender pay gap. Leadership opportunities for women and girls are integrated in the design of community structures that require 50 per cent female representation in elected leadership committees. RRP partners also work closely with Kenyan authorities to support the integration of an age, gender and diversity lens to ensure sensitivity to the needs and rights of women, girls, boys and men and groups with specific needs, such as people living with disability and LGBTIQ+ individuals.

SETTLEMENT & SHELTER/HOUSING

More than 2,500 households are accommodated temporarily in the reception centres, and they are unable to be relocated to the community due to funding limitations, which affect the procurement of shelter materials and the lack of land to expand settlement areas. As a result, some 48 per cent of households in Kalobeyei (3,100 households) are in temporary shelters, unable to transition to permanent shelters and another 5,677 households are living in dilapidated shelters. Such conditions affects the dignity of refugees, and can trigger protection risks, especially for women, girls, persons with diverse SOGIESC or at risk of stigma and marginalisation. In 2024, 300 permanent shelters will be constructed through CBIs. Additionally, shelter partners will continue to advocate and mobilize resources to provide all new arrivals with transitional shelters and also repair dilapidated structures, with specific support provided to the most vulnerable.

In consultation with the Turkana County Government and the State Department of Housing and Urban Development, RRP partners will support the Kenya Urban Support Program 2 (KUSP 2) under the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA 20) Window for Host Communities and Refugees. KUSP 2 aims to develop and strengthen the capacities of urban institutions through the establishment of functioning municipalities in refugee hosting areas of Kakuma and Dadaab, including the creation of basic municipal institutions for urban planning and development management, basic services provision, land administration and management, finance and revenue management, and administrative services. Under KUSP 2, RRP partners will also work on integrated urban development planning for refugees and the host communities.

RRP partners and the county governments will engage to expand the work of the Future Visions and Regeneration Strategies of Kakuma-Kalobeyei and Dadaab. Further, specialized technical reviews and advisories on planning key infrastructural projects in each municipality will be provided to prepare Municipal Strategic Projects Plans and Infrastructure Priority Project Briefs in alignment with urban integrated development plans. Developing improved urban infrastructure and public spaces will also contribute to promoting peaceful coexistence, inclusion and integration.

Spatial planning advisory services and development of planning recommendations in the Kalobeyei Settlement will be provided by an RRP partner in consultation with the Turkana County Government and DRS to ensure orderly implementation of housing and shelter development projects and improved infrastructure that are safe, dignified, resilient to climate change and that support sustainable integrated settlement planning under the proposed Shirika Plan.

Emergency shelter and provision of non-food items will be critical in responding to gaps in basic needs within the deteriorating context, especially for new arrivals, protracted caseloads, and those affected by natural disasters (floods, drought etc). Advocacy for the mobilization of resources to support tents and CRIs will be carried out in parallel, aiming to provide solutions and build resilience against recurrent shocks.

Climate change is a risk multiplier, driving more displacement and aggravating the need for protection. The loss of food, water, land, and other natural resources vital for survival and well-being has a wide-ranging impact on the community's health and livelihoods. Mitigating the effects of climate change and environmental degradation on refugees, asylum-seekers and their hosts, as well as increasing their resilience by maintaining and rehabilitating the natural environment, is a high priority. Enhancing preparedness and response for displaced populations in disaster situations will also be prioritized.

With limited access to alternate clean energy technology and services, reliance on firewood and charcoal as primary cooking fuels remains at 97 per cent. The response will continue to prioritize the transition to clean and sustainable cooking energy through diversification from traditional biomass, promotion of market-based solutions for clean cooking, and the use of innovative finance mechanisms.

Access to clean and affordable electricity is limited, with only 1 per cent of refugees and asylum-seekers in Kakuma Camp and 30 per cent in Kalobeyei Settlement having access to electricity. In 2024, the focus is to increase household access to affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy using market-based approaches.

The planned response for 2024 will also include fostering an investment-friendly environment to attract development partners, the private sector, and financial service providers to increase clean energy adoption and land restoration under the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. UNHCR's Global Strategy for Sustainable Energy 2019-2024, the Strategic Framework for Climate Action and the Operational Strategy for Climate Resilience and Environmental Sustainability 2022-2025 will guide the implementation of energy and environment interventions.

WASH

A South Sudanese refugee girl washing clothes outside her shelter in the Reception Centre in Kalobeyei Settlement in Kenya.

© UNHCR/Pauline Omagwa

Over the course of 2024 RRP partners aim to scale up the water supply, increase the coverage of household latrines to at least 79 per cent and provide soap for all camp residents. Rampant solid waste disposal and lack of sustainable solid waste management are among the challenges posing public health risks. WASH partners will continue to build on the already laid groundwork for WASH systems strengthening that not only ensures improved service delivery to beneficiaries but also acts as an enabler in the transition towards reliable and sustainable WASH outcomes through collective action by coordinating WASH actors and other stakeholders through assessments, research and analysis.

BASIC NEEDS

Cash-based interventions (CBIs) will be used to address basic needs through multipurpose cash transfers. However, with reduced funding, it will be challenging to meet these needs consistently. The Cash Working Group will continue to be convened with oversight of the government to coordinate cash activities among humanitarian agencies. As part of the UNHCR-WFP Joint Action Plan, steps will be taken to adopt a comprehensive prioritization approach with minimal inclusion and exclusion errors. This will be done in consultation with refugees and will be linked with feedback and response mechanisms, including appeal processes. In the meantime, programmes will focus on vulnerable groups employing an AGD approach. Assistance provided through in-kind and services will undergo evaluation, with the primary focus on transitioning, wherever feasible, to CBIs. This initiative aims to promote the dignity of refugees, and foster benefit to the local community economy. Pilots will be conducted to include refugees in Kenya's Enhanced Single Registry, which is the socio-economic database of poor and vulnerable households in Kenya. This will pave the way for the inclusion of refugees in national social safety net programmes.

LOGISTICS, SUPPLY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

RRP partners will collaborate to ensure that equipment is purchased and made available for the proper functioning of operations. Logistical support in the form of garage capacity (maintenance and repair of vehicles, motorcycles and machinery), fuel management, warehouse maintenance and transport of goods and people in safety and security will be provided. To ensure that humanitarian workers have a functioning primary means of communication, information and communications technology will maintain internet connectivity, as well as VSAT, VHF radios, satellite phones, and other equipment. Other areas for investment include strengthening operational support in telecommunications, real-time communication, delivery of accurate and timely emergency data, business continuity, and timely logistical and supply of goods (including fuel) and security services.

Partnership and Coordination

In line with the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM), UNHCR works closely with the national government, primarily through the Department of Refugee Services (DRS) and the Turkana County Government to coordinate the response. Working closely with line ministries, partners in the RRP include more than 40 NGO partners and UN agencies to

provide vital protection and assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers in Kakuma and Kalobeyei as well as at least 50 community-based organizations and refugee-led organizations which are part of the coordination at field level. Partners also provide protection services to urban refugees in Nairobi and other cities, including Uasin Gishu, Kitale, West Pokot, Eldoret and Nakuru.

Inter-agency meetings are held monthly at the national, county and local levels to highlight population trends, discuss ongoing interventions, develop targeted advocacy, and identify gaps to address jointly. In addition, the response is also coordinated with other humanitarian coordination structures at the regional and global level, as well as with countries of origin and resettlement to facilitate solutions.

The Shirika Plan is an important area of inter-agency collaboration as it is developed using a multi-stakeholder consultative approach with a wide range of actors across several sectors including education, water, sanitation and hygiene, health and nutrition, livelihoods and self-reliance, social protection, environment and energy, agriculture, housing, land and property, and durable solutions.

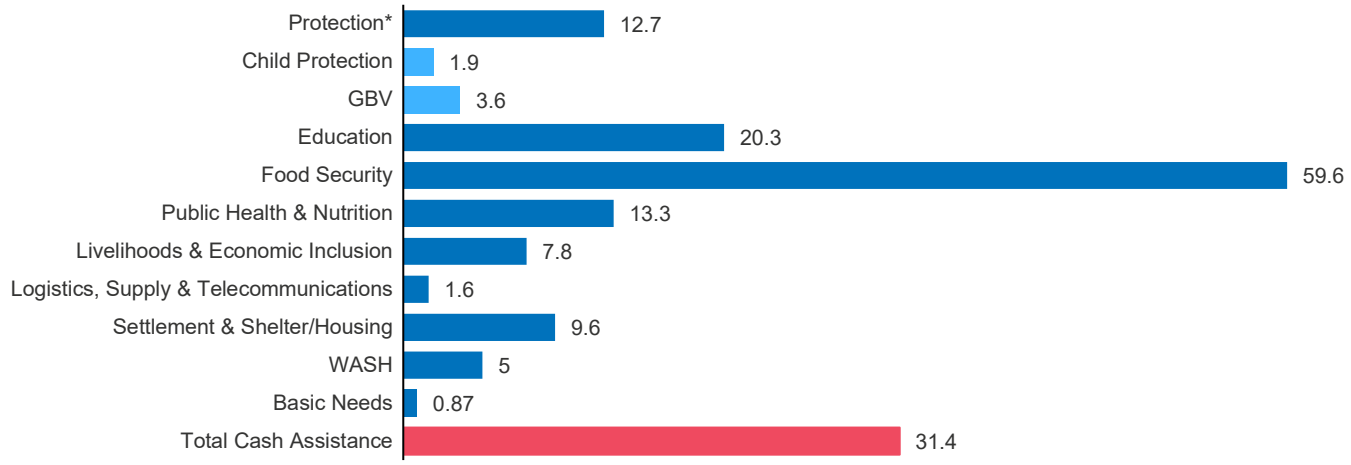
In the Ministry of Interior and National Administration, DRS is the government entity responsible for refugee management in Kenya. DRS works closely with RRP partners and participates in inter-agency platforms, including KISEDP. The Turkana County Commissioner also provides support and guidance on the legislative and policy framework, delivers quality services to the people of Turkana, and coordinates with humanitarian, private sector and development actors. The support of security agencies under the leadership of the Deputy County Commissioner and Sub-County Police Commander will sustain peaceful coexistence between refugees and host communities in Kakuma and Kalobeyei. Awareness raising and sensitization and capacity development for law enforcement and other authorities including partners on international and national refugee law and standards is and will be undertaken, to maintain peaceful coexistence amongst the refugees and the hosting communities. The County Government at the sub-county level, represented by the Sub-County Administrator, plays a critical role in coordinating the engagement of various government line ministries across the eight thematic KISEDP components. Refugees have also been integrated in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework Kenya 2022-2026.

Inter-Agency Financial Requirements

Total Financial Requirements In USD **$ 134. M**

Budget summary by sector at country level

Million in USD



** CP and GBV budgets are subsets of the Protection budget.*

Total Protection requirements
$ 12,698,407

Other protection activities	Of which GBV	Of which Child Protection
$ 7,192,535 57% of total	$ 3,618,545 28% of total	$ 1,887,327 15% of total

Total Cash Assistance requirements*
$ 31,356,490

Protection	Food security	Education
$ 4,051,440	$ 22,500,000	$ 951,000
Settlement and Shelter/Housing $ 1,188,000	Energy and Environment $ 2,666,050	

** This is a breakdown by sector of the requirements for cash assistance which are included in the above total sectoral budgets. Cash assistance is pursued and reflected as a key modality of assistance and protection in line with UNHCR's CBI Policy 2022-2026. Cash assistance is used as a cross-cutting modality across the various sectors, including protection, and is budgeted for accordingly and in line with a basic needs approach. As the modality of choice of the people we work with, cash assistance will be used as the primary means to meet immediate basic needs and provide important protection outcomes.*

Budget summary by partner type

22 Partners

7 UN Agencies	10 International NGOs	4 National NGOs	1 IFRC&RC
$ 110,810,094	$ 18,831,707	$ 1,526,925	$ 2,894,280
	3 Of which is FBOs	1 Of which is FBOs	
	$ 12,050,000	$ 783,026	

Notes: This list only includes appealing organizations under the RRP, many of which collaborate with implementing partners to carry out RRP activities. See 'Budget Summary by Partner' for partner breakdown per type.

Budget Summary by Partner

Partner	Acronym / Short Title	Type	Requirements in US$
IFRC & Red Cross/ Crescent Societies			**2,894,280**
Kenya Red Cross Society	KRCS	IFRC/ICRC	2,894,280
International NGO			**18,831,707**
Danish Refugee Council	DRC	INGO	256,023
Finn Church Aid	FCA	INGO/FBO	1,200,000
International Rescue Committee	IRC	INGO	3,141,684
Jesuit Refugee Service	JRS	INGO/FBO	850,000
Lutheran World Federation	LWF	INGO/FBO	10,000,000
Peace Winds Japan	PWJ	INGO	1,063,001
Terres Des Hommes	Tdh	INGO	320,000
The BOMA Project	The BOMA Project	INGO	1,548,395
The Toolkit Foundation	TTF	INGO	200,000
Windle International Kenya	WIK	INGO	252,604
National NGO			**1,526,925**
Don Bosco Kakuma	DBK	NNGO/FBO	783,026
Film Aid Kenya	FAK	NNGO	109,983
Lotus Kenya Action for Development Organization	LOKADO	NNGO	333,916
Okapi Green Ltd	Okapi Green Ltd	NNGO	300,000
United Nations			**110,810,094**
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	FAO	UN	3,700,000
UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women	UN Women	UN	5,000,000
United Nations Children's Fund	UNICEF	UN	2,610,000
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	UNHCR	UN	39,592,606
United Nations Human Settlements Programme	UN-HABITAT	UN	1,500,000
United Nations Population Fund	UNFPA	UN	2,500,000
United Nations World Food Programme	UNWFP	UN	55,907,488
			Total: $ 134,063,006

Sudan Planned Response

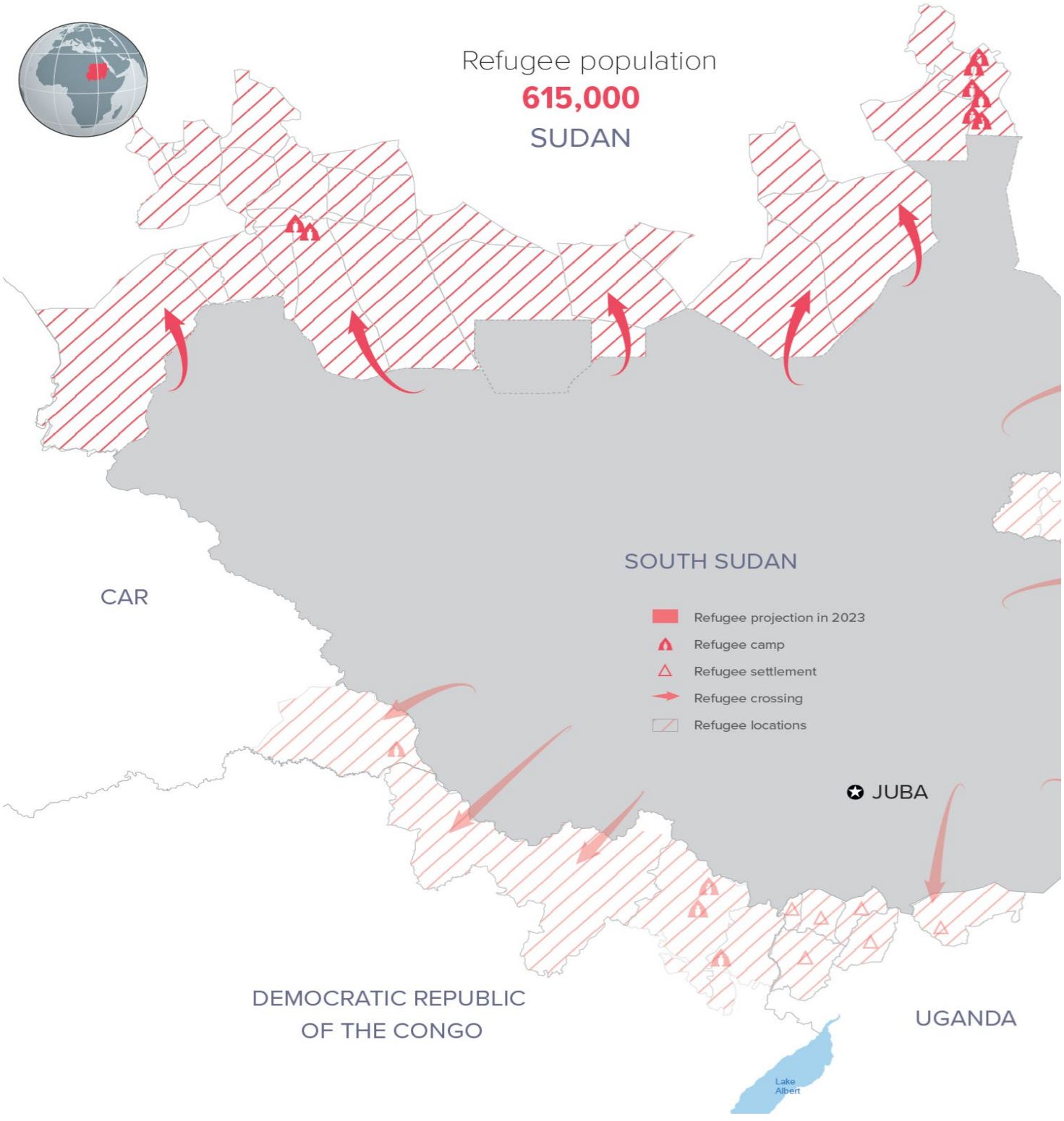
January-December 2024

615,000
Projected refugee population

82,000
Assisted host community population

USD 487.6M
Total financial requirements

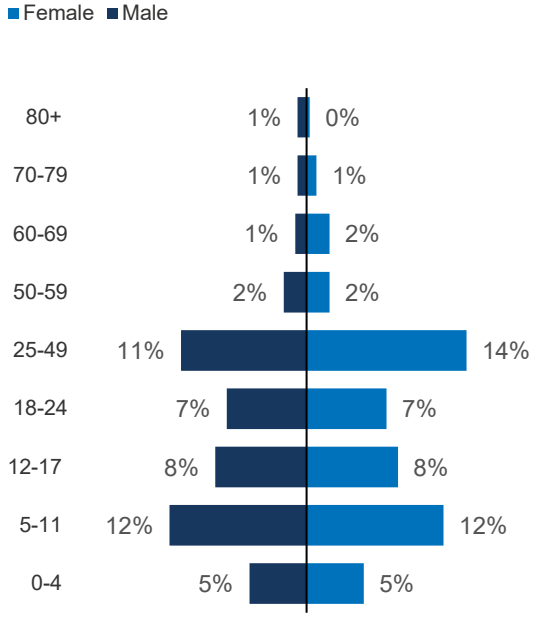
36
Partners



Population Planning Figures

Country	Population as of end of 2023	Planned Population as of end of 2024
Targeted Refugee Population		
Refugee Population	706,720	615,000
Total	**706,720**	**615,000**
Targeted Host Population		
Country	94,700	82,000
Total	**94,700**	**82,000**

Age and gender breakdown



16% of total 615k

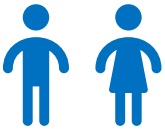
People with disabilities [12]

52%

Women and girls

48%

Men and boys



50%

Girls and boys

Part 1: Current Situation

Situation Overview

The enduring conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) has led to a rapidly deteriorating humanitarian and security context with devastating impacts on civilians across Sudan. Areas hosting large populations of South Sudanese refugees, including Khartoum, Darfur and Kordofan states, have been among the worst conflict-affected areas, proliferating acute protection risks and life-threatening humanitarian needs, and leading to large secondary movements. In March 2023, one month prior to the conflict, there were 796,831 South Sudanese refugees in Sudan. Following the outbreak of the conflict more than 157,400 South Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers have conducted secondary movements out of conflict hotspots, while many remain trapped in largely

[12] The global estimate is that 16 per cent of the population is expected to have a disability. https://www.who.int/teams/noncommunicable-diseases/sensory-functions-disability-and-rehabilitation/global-report-on-health-equity-for-persons-with-disabilities

inaccessible areas without access to basic services. Returns under adverse conditions have also been recorded, with an estimated 297,429 South Sudanese refugees having undertaken risky movements to return to South Sudan since the outbreak of the conflict in April 2023.

Internal secondary movements of refugees have seen a rapid population growth in relatively safe areas, most notably in White Nile camps, where an estimated 145,172 South Sudanese refugees have arrived since the conflict's outset. Lack of accommodation and high rates of overcrowding, combined with an under-resourced response have contributed to critical gaps in service provision, aggravating vulnerabilities to disease outbreaks, and malnutrition rates, and leading to high mortality rates among children. In Khartoum, South Sudanese refugees remain trapped in conflict-affected areas and subject to indiscriminate shelling and other attacks, with devastating effects on their safety and security. Infringements and violations of international human rights law by parties to the conflict continue to be reported. Safe corridors for humanitarian aid and safe passage for civilians out of conflict areas have failed to be guaranteed. At the same time, critical breaks in services and economic breakdown have triggered life-threatening humanitarian needs. Across Darfur and Kordofan states, the conflict has further rendered many refugee settlements inaccessible and hindered the timely delivery of much-needed life-saving aid. In addition, the breakdown of law and order and the consequent widespread criminality, have increased violations and denied access to justice mechanisms for the civilian population seeking redress. The same situation has also resulted in the widespread destruction and looting of humanitarian offices and warehouses, while bureaucratic and administrative impediments by authorities and non-State armed groups continue to affect humanitarian response capacities.

As of the end of 2023, political talks have yet to yield prospective solutions to the conflict, and with over 13,000 fatalities recorded by the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED)[13], the continued conflict has contributed to widespread humanitarian needs and acute protection risks for the whole civilian population, including refugees and asylum-seekers.

Regional RRP partners initially maintained an active presence in the accessible areas, primarily in the Eastern and Southern corridors of Sudan, to ensure continued aid delivery in accessible areas. However, the safe spaces have been reduced as the fighting spreads to different states. RRP partners retain a readiness posture to extend their response into hard-to-reach areas, resources and security permitting. The 2024 response plan brings together 36 partners in developing a response framework for the delivery of critical protection and other life-saving services targeting the 706,720 South Sudanese refugees estimated to be in Sudan by the beginning of 2024.

Sudan Country Risks and Needs

In 2023, Sudan became home to one of the world's most rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situations. With no sign of respite after seven months of conflict, it is estimated that the war will continue through 2024, resulting in new and protracted displacement; continuous risks for the lives of the civilian population caught in the conflict; deepening gaps in essential service accessibility, notably health and education; rising indicators for hunger and malnutrition; and exacerbating challenges for responders to access people in need. The unprecedented deterioration of the security situation in Sudan has resulted in significant risk to life and physical harm for refugees and asylum-seekers remaining in heavily conflict-affected areas. Displacement, loss and damage to homes directly impact physical protection, leaving individuals exposed to increased risks, with women, children, people with disabilities and older people among the most vulnerable. Partners are gravely concerned for the well-being of vulnerable South Sudanese refugees unable to leave hotspot locations including Khartoum and Darfur.

Aside from the direct threat to life stemming from the widespread violation of the law of conflict by all parties, critical protection risks for the civilian population include arbitrary arrest and detention, extortion, smuggling and trafficking,

[13] October 2023 ACLED: Situation Update

conflict-related sexual violence, and forced recruitment, including of children. Children have been greatly affected by the conflict, with grave child rights violations observed, including killing, maiming, and recruitment and use of children in the armed conflict. Large numbers of refugee children have been separated from caregivers and when arriving in the camps many have shown signs of acute emotional distress. Alarming reports of conflict-related sexual violence against women and girls have been reported in the aftermath of the outbreak of the conflict. Some have been reported in the context of secondary movements of the refugees and asylum-seekers fleeing conflict hotspots. Heightened risks of gender-based violence (GBV), including sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), persist even in safer areas due to gaps in basic services and acute socio-economic vulnerabilities, often leading to harmful coping mechanisms.

The conflict in Sudan has had a dire impact on access to education for children across the country, affecting refugees, internally displaced people (IDPs) and host community children alike, and eroding gains made over prior years in access to quality basic, secondary, and tertiary education. Despite previous engagement with the Federal Ministry of Education and development partners, efforts, including steps taken to include refugee children in national education systems, have similarly stalled. Education in urban settings affected by the conflict has borne the brunt of the impact, resulting in spikes in the number of out-of-school children and youth, most notably in Khartoum. Consequently, children and youth are increasingly exposed to protection risks, including abuse, exploitation, child labour, and child marriage.

Further, the ongoing conflict has worsened the food insecurity situation faced by civilians, including refugees and asylum-seekers. Food security reports project Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Phase 3 or above (Crisis or worse) conditions between October 2023 to February 2024[14]. Food and other essential commodity prices have soared, greatly limiting access to supplies, even in areas where markets remain functional. Poor household purchasing power significantly impacts refugees, many of which are excluded from formal economies and livelihood opportunities, increasing reliance on food assistance.

The health situation has worsened due to the impact of conflict on the chronically underfunded healthcare system rendering it unable to respond to unfolding health crises in the country. In conflict-affected states 70 percent of hospitals are no longer operational, while 65% of the population lack access to health services[15]. Primary Health Care (PHC) services have faced direct attacks on health facilities and staff, looting of facilities, critical shortages of medical inputs, barriers to importing equipment and drugs, and fuel shortages that threaten energy availability for hospitals Between October 2023 and February 2024 approximately 37 per cent of Sudan's population, or about 17.7 million people, have been driven into high levels of food insecurity, classified as IPC Phase 3, meaning crisis or worse. This figure also includes 4.9 million people in IPC Phase 4, which is classified as emergency. Primary Health Care (PHC) services have faced direct attacks on health facilities and staff, looting of facilities, critical shortages of medical inputs, barriers to importing equipment and drugs, and fuel shortages that threaten energy availability for hospitals. Health services in refugee camps have not been spared these mounting challenges. Moreover, large-scale refugee movements to safe areas have placed additional needs on already strained services, exacerbated by disease outbreaks, poor Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) conditions and overcrowding. The weak health infrastructure, coupled with bureaucratic and administrative impediments, continues to hamper the timely delivery of medical goods and deployment of staff, resulting in low-quality services.

In tandem, malnutrition is increasing alongside disease outbreaks, resulting in high mortality rates among children. In 2022, the Standardised Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS) conducted in South Sudanese refugee camps in White Nile indicated high rates of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM). In June and July 2023, mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) malnutrition data indicated further deterioration of the situation. Further, the aftermath of the rainy season brought disease outbreaks to the country. From May to September, over 1,200 children under five died from a combination of malnutrition and communicable diseases as well as other causes in the refugee camps of White Nile. Multiple disease

[14] https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1156504/?iso3=SDN
[15] https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/sudan-nine-months-conflict-key-facts-and-figures-15-january-2024

outbreaks have since been declared across Sudan, including measles, malaria, dengue and cholera, underscoring the critical need for resources in health and nutrition service delivery.

Conflict and economic decline have limited access to livelihoods and economic inclusion, while household purchasing power has reduced significantly as the costs of essential items soared. Refugees, who were often excluded from formal labour markets even before the crisis, urgently require access to livelihoods as a means to improve food security, access to basic services and well-being, reduce harmful copings strategies that lead to heightened protection risks, and support the development of self-reliance.

South Sudanese refugees in Sudan remain trapped in cycles of conflict, displacement, and natural disasters, while humanitarian funding remains largely insufficient to meet their needs. Secondary movements as refugees and asylum-seekers from conflict hotspots have further contributed to overcrowding in safe areas, with camps reaching up to ten-fold their capacity. Additional land and shelter are urgently needed to provide protection against environmental hazards, violence, and protection risks, and to enhance health and well-being. Essential Non-Food Items (NFIs) are indispensable for basic daily functioning and safety, while site development is vital for maintaining access to refugee camps and safeguarding both the refugees and previous humanitarian aid investments. While cash-based interventions have taken place in certain locations, these have proved difficult due to the overall security situation, lack of access to many areas across Sudan and limited financial service providers.

Access to safe water and sanitation facilities were below Sphere standards in the refugee-hosting sites pre-conflict and have deteriorated further in its aftermath. The existing provision is below the emergency standard of 15 litres per person per day. As a result, large proportions of South Sudanese refugees are exposed to vector-borne diseases and protection risks during water collection from untreated sources. Latrine access is also above the average of 20 people per latrine, with camps in White Nile averaging 81 people per latrine. This situation has contributed to open defecation and increased the susceptibility of refugees to disease outbreaks.

Environmental degradation continues to be of concern in Sudan, contributing to annual environmental hazards, desertification, and deforestation rates. In the wake of the conflict, arrival rates of secondarily displaced South Sudanese refugees in White Nile state have led to overcrowding and mounting pressures on local resources in the area. With the majority of refugee populations relying on firewood and charcoal for cooking, deforestation rates in displacement-affected areas are expected to increase. As firewood becomes scarcer, its collection will contribute to exposure to protection risks for women and girls and may lead to conflict with host communities.

Part 2: Sudan Country Protection and Solutions Strategy

Country Strategic Objectives

SO1: Strengthen the protective environment for refugees and asylum-seekers.

The Sudan response aims to enable refugees, asylum-seekers, and stateless people in Sudan to access their rights in accordance with national, regional, and international pledges, standards, and fair protection procedures. The response aims to ensure that international protection standards are met, upheld, and applied, including in conflict areas, and in line with provisions delivered by International Humanitarian Law, Human Rights Law, and International Refugee Law. The response also aims to support national policies hospitable to refugees, including the Government of Sudan's continued granting of access to territory and asylum for those seeking refuge in Sudan, including within the current context however, it is acknowledged that in the context of the Sudan crisis, many Government institutions have reduced capacity which may affect adherence to procedures.

SO2: Enable access to timely protection interventions and other life-saving assistance for refugees and host communities.

The response will prioritize multi-sectoral life-saving emergency assistance to South Sudanese refugees in camps, camp-like settlements, and reception points. Refugees and asylum-seekers who fled conflict hotspot areas are increasingly living in overcrowded conditions, while service systems are under extraordinary pressure to meet the needs of affected populations. To address acute levels of vulnerability, high levels of aid dependency and critical gaps in basic services, partners will deliver assistance and protection services, including child protection and GBV, Education, Settlement and Shelter/Housing, Food Security and Livelihoods, Health and Nutrition, and WASH,. Assistance will be delivered in tandem to refugees remaining in conflict-affected settings, contingent upon security and access, to address life-threatening needs faced by those who have been unable to leave.

SO3: Provide equitable access to basic services for refugees and strengthen opportunities for resilience and self-reliance while finding lasting solutions for refugees.

RRP partners will continue to work towards achieving self-reliance through increased socioeconomic inclusion, access to multi-sectoral services for refugees, and improved conditions for local integration. Given the conflict and insecurity in Sudan, activities will be conducted only in geographical areas with unhindered access where the local socioeconomic systems, including markets and financial service providers remain viable.

Ferry sails in White Nile River connecting refugees and host communities living in the eastern and western riverbank ©UNHCR/Isadora Schuler Zoni

Sectoral Responses

PROTECTION

The 2024 protection response will retain a key strategic focus on access to individual registration, refugee status determination, and civil documentation as fundamental components of accessing basic rights and services. In close collaboration with the government counterpart, the Commissioner for Refugees (COR) and UNHCR will work to

strengthen capacities and provide technical guidance on Refugee Status Determination (RSD) processing. In parallel, partners will work to facilitate access to legal assistance for refugees in need, including legal counselling and representation to fill critical gaps in the face of a breakdown of judicial systems. Advocacy targeting authorities and parties to the conflict will be conducted to advocate for upholding and applying international humanitarian and human rights law, as well as for the provision of humanitarian corridors and safe passage of civilians from conflict areas, including refugees and asylum-seekers.

Partners will engage with community-based protection networks (CBPN) working to prevent or reduce protection risks, mitigate and address the consequences of violence, and build community resilience. The CBPN's have been instrumental in strengthening social cohesion and peaceful coexistence activities, resolving disputes and raising awareness on GBV, child protection, risks involving smuggling/trafficking, and the civilian character of asylum. Further, static and mobile help desks managed by partners or CBPNs in inaccessible or hard-to-reach areas will be strengthened or established to provide information on available assistance and referrals. Engagement with community structures will be intensified by establishing or maintaining CBPN infrastructures such as youth and women's centers, and multi-purpose community centers. Persons with disabilities and older persons will be prioritized in all interventions and assistances provided by partners.

Capacity-building and awareness raising targeting partners, key stakeholders, and affected populations on general protection and rights will continue. In parallel, risks of human trafficking and smuggling will be tackled through enhanced awareness raising, empowerment projects targeting youth, and capacity-building of duty bearers and stakeholders. Efforts will aim to address pronounced risks faced by refugees and asylum-seekers in Sudan within the current context and the established smuggling networks in the country.

Community-based protection training was central for the strategy of self-reliance and community empowerment in WNS in Sudan. © UNHCR/Isadora C. S. Zone

Sub-Sector: Child Protection

The 2024 response will prioritize strengthening and expanding Child Protection Best Interest Procedures (BIP) and information systems including for children at risk. Concerted efforts to strengthen appropriate alternative care

arrangements for unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) and other children at risk as well as family tracing and reunification, will be prioritized to address the significant rise in the number of UASC reported since the conflict outbreak. Capacity-building for local actors and community-based protection networks (CBPN) will be central for integrating lessons learned, enhanced preparedness to respond, and improved capacities to address needs. Child-friendly spaces will be established, and existing ones will be improved to cater to child and youth engagement activities, including sports. Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) for children will be integrated into referral mechanisms to support access to comprehensive care.

Sub-sector: GBV

The response, prevention and response of GBV will include life-saving, survivor-centred GBV services to address the needs of survivors requiring comprehensive care. In accessible areas, less impacted by the conflict, prevention programming will include Engaging Men in Accountable Practices (EMAP) and the Girl Shine Initiative to prevent GBV. In parallel, GBV information management systems will be strengthened alongside capacity-building of partners and duty-bearers. MHPSS will be among the priority interventions as acute emotional distress has risen sharply due to the conflict in Sudan. Prevention and response efforts will include expanding women and girls' safe spaces and strengthening community-based protection networks to improve safe disclosure and referral of GBV survivors. Collaboration and small-scale partnerships with local and women-led organizations will further be pursued to complement advocacy, protection, and assistance services at the community level, as well as coordination with other sectors, such as health, to provide GBV services and GBV risk mitigation.

EDUCATION

The refugee response aims to increase access to quality education for refugees by supporting children's access to learning spaces in camps and host community schools. Education interventions include recruitment and retention of teachers, provision of incentives, access to scholarships, classroom equipment, and support for students to access school supplies. In parallel, linkages with other sectors will be strengthened, particularly with sectors of child protection, GBV and WASH, to improve learning and protective environments in schools – including linkages with MHPSS service providers. Capacity-building of teachers and strengthened education governance structures for improved quality programmes will be pursued, as well as partnership-building with education stakeholders to revive and sustain the inclusion of refugee children into national education systems at state and locality levels. The education response will also focus on Education in Emergency learning in conflict-affected areas through the rapid establishment of education activities that would allow a return to normalcy, protection and eventual adoption of formal education. In areas where learning services are severely affected and hard to reach due to the ongoing conflict, the provision of emergency education at the onset will be through community-led safe learning spaces spearheaded by the refugee community. This will be achieved through working in partnership with refugee-led organizations, religious organizations., and refugee and host community leadership present on the ground.

Students' participation in one of the classrooms constructed by PROSPECTS Partnership in Al Nimir SSR camp in Sudan. © UNHCR/Akram Al-Absi

FOOD SECURITY

Food assistance in camp settings is of particular priority, as the refugees are reliant on food assistance and have limited access to opportunities to generate income. As such, in 2024, the response aims to support in-kind or cash food rations. Feasibility studies will be conducted to guide the provision of cash for food assistance and will provide insight into the safety and security, cultural and gender dynamics, and potential effects on social cohesion with the host community.

PUBLIC HEALTH & NUTRITION

To address needs, partners will prioritize providing primary health care, including nutrition and mental health and psychosocial support, sexual and reproductive health including clinical management of rape and other services for GBV survivors secondary and tertiary medical referrals and will contribute to improving the overall quality of health services in all camps hosting South Sudanese refugees. The response will include the provision of essential drugs, medical supplies and equipment, capacity building of health personnel, rehabilitation of health facilities, and running mobile clinics to enhance outreach. Emergency response for new arrivals in safe locations and outbreak preparedness in camps will also form an integral component of the response. Prevention measures for epidemic diseases will be expanded and mainstreamed in close coordination with state Ministry of Health departments and in collaboration with partners. Community health workers will be engaged to foster preventive approaches and support community-based surveillance.

Nutrition response will prioritize the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) of children under-five and pregnant and lactating women (PLW). Prevention of malnutrition will be pursued through maternal, infant and young child nutrition programmes, alongside blanket supplementary feeding programmes for children under-five. Continuous monitoring and screening will be conducted through surveillance initiatives, nutrition information system management, and impact evaluation through the SENS survey.

LIVELIHOODS & RESILIENCE (AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION)

In areas less conflict-affected, partners will continue to assist refugees in accessing livelihood opportunities to support self-reliance and empowerment. Agricultural extension services, including agricultural and livestock inputs, will be provided to refugee farmers to strengthen agricultural production and livestock management. Vocational skills training aligned with market demands will be provided, alongside opportunities for small-business start-up and management and provision of small-scale business grants for access to start-up capital. Entrepreneurship activities will prioritize refugee youth, while key targets also include women, vulnerable individuals, and other at-risk groups.

SETTLEMENT & SHELTER/HOUSING

The 2024 shelter response will centre on flexible approaches to aid delivery, ensuring that relevant assistance is accessible to refugees living in diverse contexts. The response will deliver adaptable cash assistance to cater to varied

shelter needs and will be paired with in-kind support to alleviate market shortcomings. For the host communities, the shelter response will focus on rehabilitation and critical needs to comprehensively target gaps and support of social cohesion. Community-based approaches will be leveraged to empower refugees and to ensure impactful interventions in a resource-constrained environment. The shelter interventions will improve safety and privacy in the design and also prioritize support to people with specific needs to reduce protection risks such as child labour or transactional sex which increase in the absence of secure housing.

UNHCR and its partner, Norwegian Church Aid, distribute shelter materials to refugees at El Radoum camp in South Darfur, Sudan.
© UNHCR/Behrooz Taleb

In 2024, partners will aim to provide fuel-efficient stoves and clean cooking fuel – specifically ethanol and liquefied natural gas (LNG). Solarization of key infrastructure will be encouraged to reduce the use of fossil fuels and improve the utility of assets in instances of fuel shortages or access restrictions to sites.

To meet immediate and short-term needs, as well as offset GBV risks faced by women and girls collecting firewood the provision of charcoal and firewood will continue in consultation with the local forestry departments. Reforestation and afforestation activities will be pursued as well as interventions to promote natural landscape resilience against cyclical and natural shocks. Environmental initiatives on conservation and sustainable natural resource management also help mitigate the risks of inter-community tensions and improve peaceful coexistence.

BASIC NEEDS

In addition to sectoral cash, multipurpose cash will be provided to enable refugee and host community households to access basic needs based on market assessments and the viability of financial service providers. Evidence from post distribution monitoring (PDM) exercises for sectoral cash reveals that a significant proportion is spent on meeting basic household needs, and hence, there is a need to complement sectoral cash assistance (cash for NFIs) with unconditional multipurpose cash. The Minimum Expenditure Basket provided by Sudan Cash Working Group will determine household or individual transfer values on a monthly/quarterly basis. Targeting of households will be based on vulnerability scoring, ensuring minimal exclusion or inclusion errors. It is envisaged that multipurpose cash will be the modality of choice for a majority of households that will need assistance in 2024.

WASH

In 2024, partners will prioritize the provision of adequate and safe water supply and sanitation facilities with the maintenance of existing water supply systems and upgrading water supply systems and developing new water sources. Family and household-shared latrines and gender-segregated communal emergency latrines and showers will be

constructed to expand the sanitation response. Hygiene promotion activities, distribution of soap, and provision of hygiene kits to women and girls of reproductive age will be conducted in parallel to promote positive outcomes.

Partnership and Coordination

The Refugee Consultation Forum (RCF) provides a coordination and information-sharing platform for UN agencies, international non-governmental organization (INGOs) and national NGOs and is co-chaired by the Commissioner for Refugees (COR) and UNHCR. The RCF provides strategic guidance to the refugee response, informed by the expertise and complementarities of all its members. Members also regularly undertake joint advocacy initiatives with donors and other actors, highlighting the needs of refugees and ensuring the refugee response remains a priority within the broader humanitarian response. At the national level, the RCF is supported by the Strategic Advisory Group (SAG), an elected body of RCF representative members providing dedicated and strategic support for the identification of priority needs, gaps and responses. The Protection Technical Advisory Group (TAG) delivers strategic and technical advice at the national level to support refugee protection response, ensuring that the response strategy and implementation adequately accounts for protection concerns facing refugees and asylum-seekers – including within areas of GBV and child protection. At the state-level, Refugee Working Groups (RWGs) lead the coordination of operational response, supported by sub-sector Technical Working Groups (TWGs) providing specific technical guidance within respective areas of responsibility.

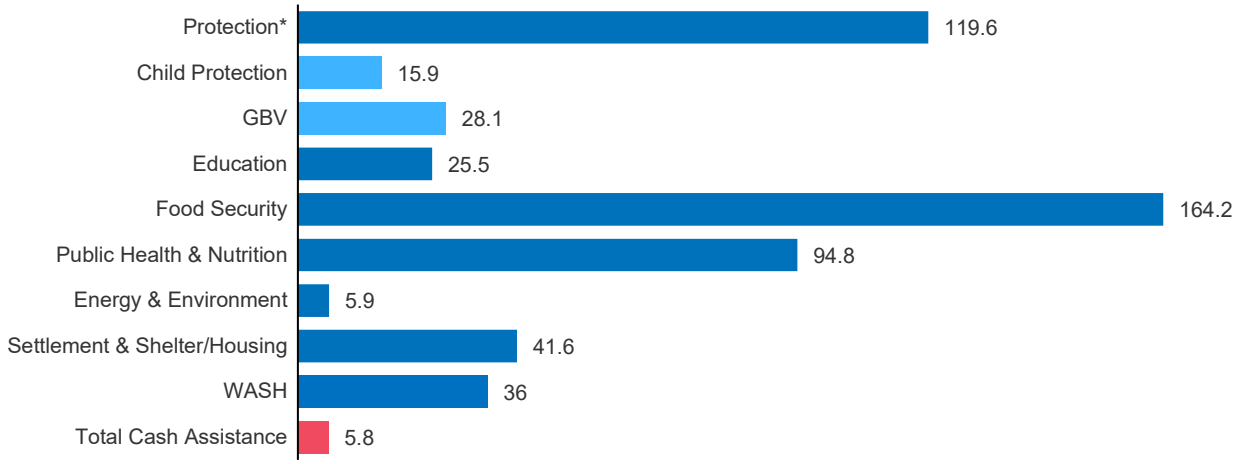
Sudan has both refugees and internally displaced people, so refugee coordination works in collaboration with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) coordination structure, including at national and state-level. The collaboration is guided by the UNHCR-OCHA Joint Note on Mixed Situations: Coordination in Practice (2014). Information sharing is critical in strengthening the quality and timeliness of the response and will build on achievements in prior years.

Inter-Agency Financial Requirements

Total Financial Requirements In USD **$ 487.6 M**

Budget summary by sector at country level

Million in USD



** CP and GBV budgets are subsets of the Protection budget.*

Total Protection requirements
$ 119,615,651

Other protection activities	Of which **GBV**	Of which **Child Protection**
$ 75,622,804	$ 28,118,630	$ 15,874,217
63% of total	24% of total	13% of total

Total Cash Assistance requirements*
$ 5,844,018

Protection	Food security	Settlement and Shelter/Housing	Energy & Environment
$ 2,056,588	$ 797,750	$ 2,919,680	$ 70,000

** This is a breakdown by sector of the requirements for cash assistance which are included in the above total sectoral budgets. Cash assistance is pursued and reflected as a key modality of assistance and protection in line with UNHCR's CBI Policy 2022-2026. Cash assistance is used as a cross-cutting modality across the various sectors, including protection, and is budgeted for accordingly and in line with a basic needs approach. As the modality of choice of the people we work with, cash assistance will be used as the primary means to meet immediate basic needs and provide important protection outcomes.*

Budget summary by partner type

36 Partners involved

7 UN
UN Agencies
$ 440,485,417

19 INGO
International NGOs
$ 40,514,326

5 INGO
Of which is FBOs
$ 8,702,136

10 NGO
National NGOs
$ 6,633,165

Notes: This list only includes appealing organizations under the RRP, many of which collaborate with implementing partners to carry out RRP activities. See 'Budget Summary by Partner' for partner breakdown per type.

Budget Summary by Partner

Partner	Acronym / Short Title	Type	Requirements in US$
International NGO			**40,514,326**
Adventist Development and Relief Agency	ADRA	INGO/FBO	4,262,100
Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development	ACTED	INGO	290,200
ARC/Alight	ARC/ALIGHT	INGO	198,000
Catholic Agency for Overseas Development	CAFOD	INGO/FBO	967,560
Concern Worldwide	Concern	INGO	1,275,500
Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere	CARE	INGO	2,176,740
Cooperazione Internazionale	COOPI	INGO	2,465,000
Danish Refugee Council	DRC	INGO	1,935,000
Human Appeal	HA	INGO	430,000
International Rescue Committee	IRC	INGO	1,490,750
Islamic Relief Worldwide	IRW	INGO/FBO	960,376
Medical Teams International	MTI	INGO	1,000,000
Mercy Corps	MC	INGO	1,300,000
Norwegian Refugee Council	NRC	INGO	12,537,000
Plan International	PI	INGO	3,859,000
Relief International	RI	INGO	1,800,000
Save the Children International	SCI	INGO	1,055,000
World Vision International	WVI	INGO/FBO	2,160,000
ZOA International	ZOA	INGO/FBO	352,100
National NGO			**6,633,165**
African Relief Committee	ARCO	NNGO	500,000
Al Manar Voluntary Organization	Almanar	NNGO	2,000,000
Alsalam Organization for Rehabilitation and Development	AORD	NNGO	890,715
Global Aid Hand	GAH	NNGO	465,500
Healthcare Foundation Organization	HFO	NNGO	300,000
Hope and Friendship for Development Organization	HOPE	NNGO	900,000
JASMAR	JASMAR	NNGO	304,300
Mutawinat	Mutawinat	NNGO	700,000
NADA	NADA	NNGO	372,650
Response Team Organization	RTO	NNGO	200,000
United Nations			**440,485,417**
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	FAO	UN	4,652,315
International Organization for Migration	IOM	UN	4,500,000
United Nations Children's Fund	UNICEF	UN	60,632,474
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	UNHCR	UN	178,555,606
United Nations Population Fund	UNFPA	UN	17,444,259
United Nations World Food Programme	WFP	UN	164,330,763
World Health Organization	WHO	UN	10,370,000
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	FAO	UN	4,652,315
International Organization for Migration	IOM	UN	4,500,000
			Total: $ 487,632,908

Uganda Planned Response

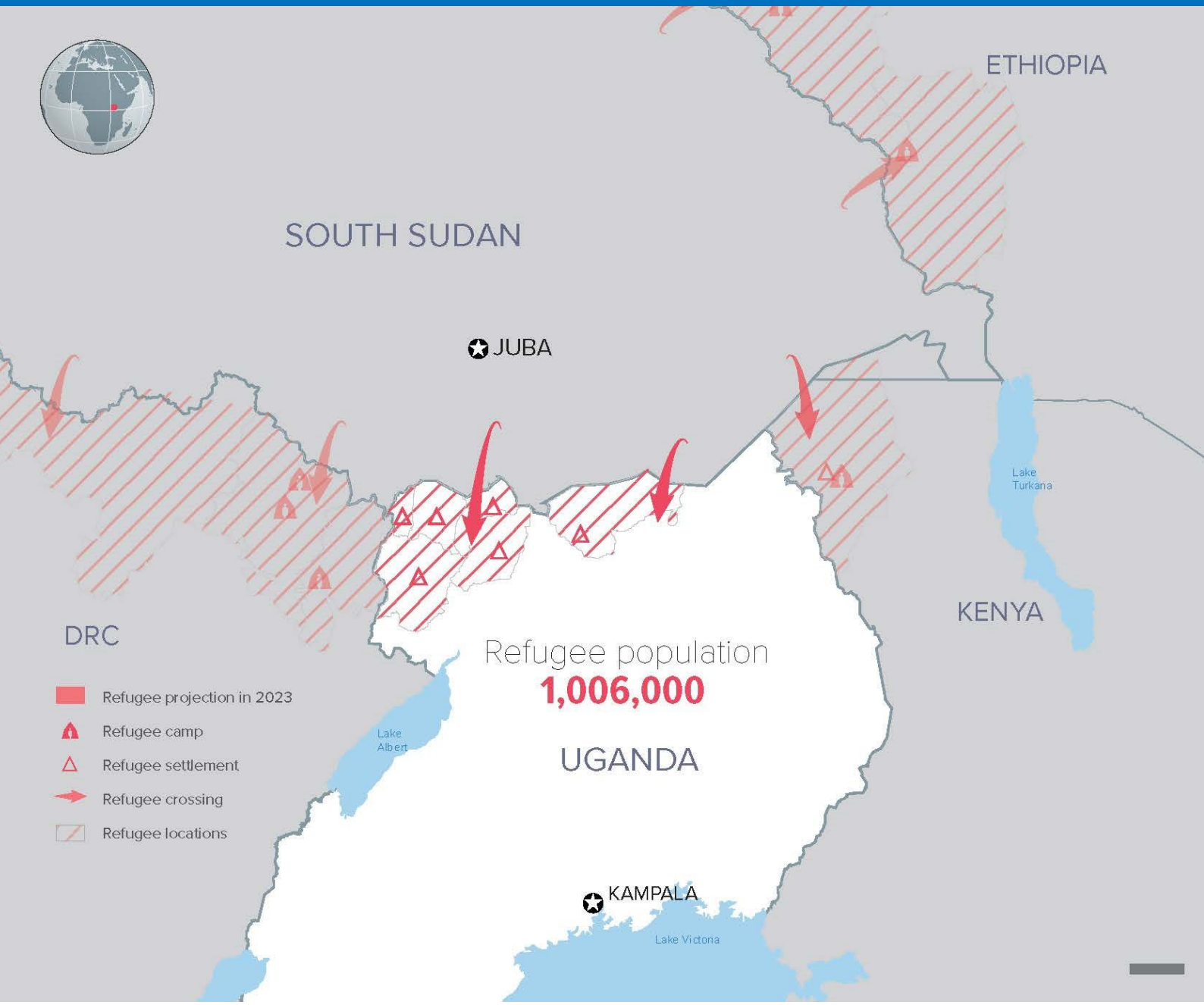
January-December 2024

1.01 M
Projected refugee population

1.8 M
Assisted host community population

502.8 M
Total financial requirements

90
Partners

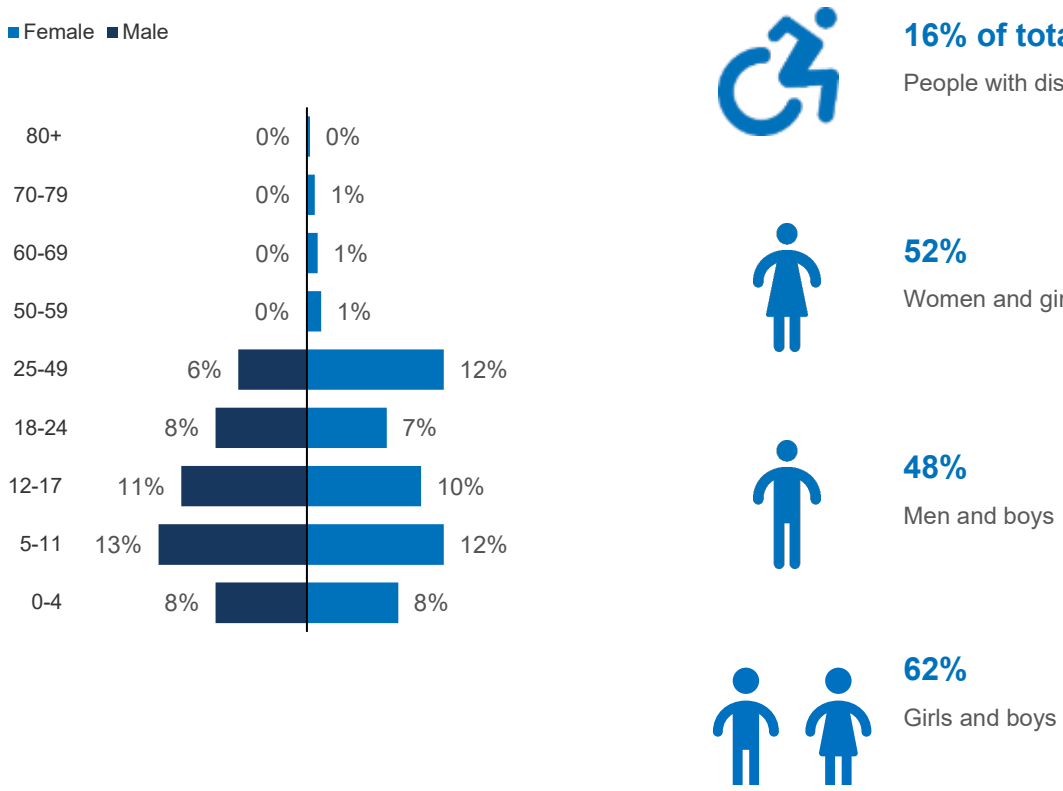


The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

Population Planning Figures

Country	Population as of end of 2023	Planned Population as of end of 2024
Targeted Refugee Population		
Refugee Population	915,010	1,006,000
Total	**915,010**	**1,006,000**
Targeted Host Population		
Country	1,515,969	1,780,610
Total	**1,515,969**	**1,780,610**

Age and gender breakdown



Part 1: Current Situation

Situation Overview

Uganda continues to be Africa's largest refugee-hosting country, with over 1.6 million refugees located across thirteen districts. South Sudanese are the largest refugee population in Uganda, numbering 923,658 as of December 2023, with 24,629 new arrivals received in 2023. In 2024, it is anticipated that refugees from South Sudan will continue crossing to Uganda through official and unofficial entry points due to tensions and the potential of violence around the national elections in 2024 and poor social services in the country of origin.

Asylum-seekers from South Sudan are granted refugee status on a prima facie basis. In dedicated settlements, refugees are provided with plots of land for housing and cultivation, thus placing a significant focus on refugee self-reliance and

[16] The global estimate is that 16 per cent of the population is expected to have a disability. https://www.who.int/teams/noncommunicable-diseases/sensory-functions-disability-and-rehabilitation/global-report-on-health-equity-for-persons-with-disabilities

resilience. Uganda is considered to have one of the most progressive asylum regimes globally by having refugees live in settlements alongside nationals[17].

Funding for the Uganda Country Refugee Response Plan (UCRRP) has dwindled in the past years, and the capacity of Refugee Response Plan (RRP) partners to provide life-saving support and protection services to new arrivals and basic assistance to refugees has diminished. This has manifested as significant reductions in food rations, with over 80 per cent of the population receiving USD 3 per person per month, which is barely enough to survive. Partners continue to prioritize the delivery of essential services, but more involvement and support from development actors, as agreed through the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), is needed to transition the management of parallel systems from humanitarian partners to sustainable government systems.

In 2023, Uganda was a co-convenor of the Global Refugee Forum and announced its pledges[18] focused on increasing resilience and self-reliance of refugees, protection of the environment and increasing access to sustainable energy sources in refugee hosting areas, strengthening the role and impact of national responders, building durable solutions, and pathways to sustainable burden-sharing.

Country Risks and Needs

The South Sudanese refugee situation continues to be a children's crisis, with over 61 per cent of the over 900,000 refugees being under the age of 18 years. During displacement, children are often at heightened risk of violence, abuse, neglect, child marriage, teenage pregnancy, and child labour. The main contributing factors to the mentioned multiple protection risks include the reduction in food assistance and of land for farming due to the increasing number of new arrivals, which reduce opportunities for self-reliance and expose women and children to the risks of exploitation and abuse. Refugees then resort to harmful coping mechanisms, such as reducing the number of meals per day, accumulating debt, child marriage and child labour. Additionally, across Uganda, host communities and refugees have experienced an increase in mental health issues and poor psychosocial well-being due to mounting economic, social and protection pressures, and limited or no prospects for livelihood opportunities. There were 123 attempted suicide cases in refugee settlements, with 24 resulting in death between January and November 2023. Financial problems and domestic violence have been linked to the reports of suicide.

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a prevalent risk among refugee and host communities, demanding special attention from RRP partners. In 2023, 75 per cent of the reported incidents were perpetrated by intimate partners. Some of the reported contributing factors were the reduction in assistance, limited economic empowerment and negative cultural norms. The prevalent incidents are psychosocial abuse, denial of resources, physical abuse and rape. Forced marriage and child marriage are a concern for South Sudanses women and girls and present environments for further abuse. Services include mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and medical follow-up.

Furthermore, the services available are overstretched, thus affecting the quality of the response. There is a shortage of GBV caseworkers and most collection points and transit centres do not have dedicated GBV caseworkers. Across the settlements, survivor to caseworker rations going as high as 1:75 well above the standard of 1:20.

Underreporting of GBV cases due to fear of stigma and of reactions from the family and the community, perceptions of GBV as a private matter, and lack of confidence in reporting channels is a major concern. While all reported cases receive support, there has been a reduction in the efficiency of prevention and response due to insufficient resources.

[17] Uganda's asylum policy is anchored in the 2006 Refugee Act and 2010 Refugee Regulations. This legal framework allows refugees freedom of movement, the right to work, and access national services, including education and health care.
[18] Document - Pledges by The Government of Uganda - GRF 2023 (UNHCR.ORG)

The 2023 Food Security and Nutrition Assessment (FSNA)[19] projected that from February to June 2024, the food security situation in the refugee-hosting districts will gradually deteriorate as communities regress from consumption of 2023 second season harvest stocks to the lean / hunger period of April to June 2024. The number of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3+) and requiring food assistance and livelihood improvement interventions is predicted to increase from 20 per cent of the analysed population to 23 per cent. At least 2 per cent of the population are anticipated to be in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) in the projection period.

Unpredictable humanitarian funding has contributed to challenges for the education system including insufficient qualified teachers, high turnover of educational staff, and inadequate school infrastructure. Scholarships are also in short supply compared to the number of students in need. The combination of these issues results in overcrowded facilities and declining quality of education and contributes to school dropout rates.

The capacity of primary healthcare institutions in Uganda are overstretched. The leading causes of death are malaria, maternal and perinatal morbidity, and respiratory tract infections. Lack of medicine, long waiting times, and failure to get referrals are among the main obstacles for refugees to access healthcare. For HIV/AIDS, poor knowledge and awareness, stigma, inadequate support and low uptake of preventative and treatment services hinder interventions.

In terms of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), on average, there has been a reduction in the level of services. This is attributed to the increased number of new arrivals and the recent floods that plunged latrine coverage amongst South Sudanese refugees from 71 per cent to 67 per cent. Furthermore, access to water services is unsafe and unequal, particularly for people with disabilities. Respondents in the 2022 Participatory Assessment most often reported that “the walk to the water source is too dangerous” in Palabek, Palorinya, and Kiryandongo settlements.

The lack of adequate electricity supply in camps is impacting partners’ ability to operate health facilities, schools, water pumps, reception centres and street lighting. Furthermore, increased environmental degradation is a source of tensions, protection risks, including GBV, socioeconomic vulnerabilities and compromises basic shelter. Major drivers of environmental degradation within and around refugee settlements include the continuous influx of people and deforestation for fuelwood, construction materials, and farmland.

[19] This report covers all 13 refugee-hosting districts, including those hosting refugees of other nationalities aside from South Sudanese refugees. The districts hosting South Sudanese refugees include Adjumani, Kiryandongo, Kyegegwa, Lamwo, Obongi and Yumbe) and have been classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis).

Funding for the provision of assistive devices and for inclusive education services allows greater access to education for learners with disabilities. © Humanity & Inclusion – Quinn Neely

Part 2: Uganda Country Protection and Solutions Strategy

This chapter of the South Sudan RRP is an updated extract from the Uganda Country Refugee Response Plan (UCRRP), a joint plan between the Office of the Prime Minister, UNHCR, and international and national partners covering the period of 2022-2025.

The 2022-2025 UCRRP promotes the strategic priorities identified by the Government of Uganda and partners, with interventions aligned to national policies and strategies, responding to evolving needs and seeking to complement and build on other international assistance programmes in the country. The response plan focuses on humanitarian assistance to refugees and host communities and seeks to expand investments, partnerships, and delivery models towards longer-term development strategies.

Country Strategic Objectives

SO1: Uganda's asylum space is strengthened and unhindered; access to territory is preserved and international protection standards are adhered to.

RRP Partners will continue to ensure that refugees and asylum-seekers have access to asylum, fair and accelerated asylum procedures, and full enjoyment of their rights as set forth in international and domestic laws. Partners will continue to strengthen the capacity of national institutions to respond to emergencies, and support improvements in registration and the asylum system. Partners will provide protection services, based on identification and referral of cases through protection monitoring, and will work with community-based structures to mitigate protection risks.

SO2: Life-saving humanitarian needs of refugees and asylum-seekers are met, with attention to any specific needs.

After the immediate needs of refugees and displaced families have been met, Partners will continue to provide life-saving assistance on an ongoing basis. This includes access to protection, healthcare, shelter and more. In addition, special focus will be given to vulnerable groups at risk of exclusion to ensure equal access to protection services and assistance and decision-making opportunities.

SO3: All affected people in refugee-hosting districts benefit from a healthy natural environment and improved social services, including health, education, water and sanitation, and social welfare, provided through national systems, where possible.

RRP Partners will continue to work to promote inclusive access to quality education and health in the national systems; sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems, and inclusion of refugees into national development plans and national statistical systems (including the upcoming census in 2024). Partners will increase advocacy with development actors to bridge the humanitarian-development divide and further facilitate the transition from humanitarian response to stabilization, recovery, and development, in line with the government's commitments to achieve the goals of the CRRF/GCR.

SO4: All affected people in refugee-hosting districts live peacefully with each other and progressively attain self-reliance in an environment conducive for livelihood opportunities.

Peaceful coexistence among communities as well as the provision of mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS) will remain a priority. The peaceful co-existence atmosphere prevailing in the settlements and surrounding communities enables refugees and asylum seekers to pursue livelihood and economic activities for the enhancement of their self-reliance. Partners will continue to strengthen the enabling environment for refugee economic inclusion through strengthening coordination structures at both settlement and national levels. Sustained advocacy for refugee access to economic resources such as arable land, formal employment opportunities and enterprise development will continue to be pursued.

SO5: Refugees and stateless persons access durable solutions, including voluntary return or third-country solutions.

Advocacy for peace-building processes and negotiations will continue with the aim of creating an enabling environment for voluntary repatriation to South Sudan. Partners will further advocate for resettlement and complementary pathways for refugees in need of family reunification in third countries, while international scholarships and labour mobility opportunities are promoted and facilitated for talented refugees. While most refugees do not wish to have permanent citizenship or residence in Uganda[20], the progressive refugee policy provides a conducive environment for refugees to become self-reliant. Partners will continue to promote self-reliance among refugees and inclusion in national systems where possible.

20 Refugees from generation to generation - Preventing statelessness by advancing durable solutions in the Great Lakes Region - Democratic Republic of the Congo | ReliefWeb

Sectoral Responses

PROTECTION

A core aspect of the protection response is to ensure that refugees and asylum-seekers have access to a fair and efficient asylum system and can fully enjoy the rights set forth in international and domestic laws. Partners will continue to strengthen the capacity of national institutions to respond to emergencies and support improvements in individual registration, documentation, and fair and efficient procedures. Those efforts will be complemented by continuous protection presence and monitoring to consult communities, detect protection risks, and disseminate information on available services. Community structures will be engaged in reinforcing the protection environment, mitigating protection risks, and providing community-based protection support to groups and individuals with specific protection needs and at risk of marginalisation and exclusion. More efforts will be made to reinforce comprehensive feedback and response mechanisms to ensure accountability to affected populations. In addition, special focus will be given to people with specific needs to ensure equal access to protection assistance and decision-making opportunities.

RRP partners will continue to engage national and local non-governmental bodies including refugee-led groups, by ensuring the wider inclusion of women, persons living with disabilities, and the elderly. Building on the South Sudan Solutions Initiative, there will be continuous improvement in collaboration with the youth mentors and agents of change involved in the implementation of the Regional Youth Peacebuilding Programme. The various youth groups that are part of the Regional Youth Network will be strengthened through financial and material support to implement youth-led projects in their communities and benefit both host and refugee communities. The women-led groups will also continue to be involved in community sensitizations and will be supported financially to conduct activities, especially in areas of child protection, GBV, mental health, and psychosocial support (MHPSS). The meaningful participation of women refugees within the leadership structures will be pursued to achieve the 50 per cent indicated in the Administrative Guidelines for the designation of Refugee Welfare Committees from the currently 46 per cent.

Partners will also continue monitoring the implementation of the projects led by RLOs with funding from the Refugee-Led Innovation Fund. These groups will continue to receive technical support. Partners will magnify the voices of refugees, promote their active participation in decision-making processes through the refugee engagement forum (REF), the refugee welfare committee, sectoral committees (for WASH, child protection, livelihood), and other forums, and build sustainable solutions that resonate with their lived experiences.

Partners will work with the Government of Uganda to fulfil its Global Refugee Forum pledge aimed at securing durable solutions for refugees. This will entail supporting opportunities to all refugees to access electronic Conventional Travel Documents and birth certificates by 2027 to foster socio-economic rights and the rights of the child. Advocacy for peace-building processes and negotiations will continue with the aim of voluntary repatriation to South Sudan.

Sub-Sector: Child Protection

To promote longer-term change and prevent child rights violations, Child Protection partners will work to enhance the role of community members in protecting children. Furthermore, to address the complex needs of refugee children, the Child Protection Sector Working Group will continue to apply a comprehensive approach, prioritizing the provision of quality best interests procedures for children at risk, placement of unaccompanied children and other children at risk into adequate alternative care through community-based fostering initiatives, in line with the National Framework for Alternative Care, under the leadership of the Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development (MGLSD); promotion of children's access to psychosocial support and recreation; supporting communities to protect children, targeted programming focused on the specific needs of adolescent girls and boys as well as supporting other sectors to mainstream child protection into their interventions. To foster sustainability, all programme components will integrate

capacity-development for UN and NGOs personnel and community-level workers. All activities are geared towards facilitating inclusion and access of refugee and Ugandan children into national child protection systems.

Sub-sector: Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

To decrease the occurrence of GBV, which disproportionally affects women and children, partners will continue to engage in prevention activities aimed at addressing the root causes of violence, including longer-term attitude and behaviour changes. To see longer-term changes in attitudes towards gender norms and power relationships, the SASA! Together Methodology, which focuses on domestic violence against women and is currently rolled out in eight out of thirteen refugee-hosting districts, will be rolled out gradually to all the refugee settlements in 2024 and 2025. The sector will also ensure that survivors of GBV and those at risk have access to survivor-centred and timely case management services, as well as linking survivors to multi-sectoral support.

In line with the 2021-2025 GBV Sector Working Group Strategy, GBV incidents will be reduced by integrating risk-mitigation measures and reviewing sectoral strategies and activities. Partners have already developed comprehensive referral pathways ensuring timely access to services, and in 2024, the sector will enhance the integration of the response into existing national coordination platforms in collaboration with the Office of the Prime Minister the MGLSD. The sector will build the capacities of refugee-led organizations (RLOs), including those led by refugee women and girls, to prevent GBV.

The GBV sector will collaborate with other sectors to effectively mitigate GBV risks and support survivors. This collaboration will include the health sector to integrate GBV screening, counselling, and referral services into healthcare settings to address the physical and psychological impacts of violence. The GBV sector will collaborate with the education sector to promote gender equality, prevent violence, and provide support to students who may be at risk of or experiencing GBV through integrating GBV prevention education into school curricula and implementing policies that create safe and inclusive learning environments. The sector will also collaborate with the livelihood sector to address the root causes of GBV, including economic inequality and dependency, by promoting women's economic empowerment, providing access to livelihood opportunities, and supporting survivors with vocational skills and access to decent employment. The sector will continue collaborating with the cash-based initiative (CBI) sector by offering flexibility and autonomy to survivors, allowing them to prioritize their needs.

EDUCATION

To ensure equitable access to quality education for over 670,000 school-aged children and youth in refugee-hosting areas, the Ministry of Education and Sports (MOES) in partnership with stakeholders has developed the second Education Response Plan for Refugees and Host Communities (ERP II). The UCRRP is aligned with the ERP II and has as a key objective to ensure that the population in refugee-hosting districts benefits from improved access to social services, including education (36 per cent provided through national systems). In 2024, partners will continue to provide safe, equitable, and inclusive quality education and training services to increase access and retention of children, adolescents and youth, particularly girls, within an education system that is progressively integrated (refugees and hosts) in line with the aspirations of the ERP II (2022-2023). To enhance government-led coordination, system strengthening and monitoring and evaluation, education sector partners will advocate for supportive plans, strategies and regulatory frameworks through community-level engagement. Partners will ensure that the sector benefits from improved multisectoral coordination of services, strengthen evidence-driven planning and decision-making and conduct policy and regulatory advocacy. Support will be provided for infrastructure, including temporary structures and a double-shift school system to accommodate the population.

FOOD SECURITY

The Uganda refugee operation has implemented a progressive shift to needs-based targeting of all relief food and cash assistance to refugees. The new model built off consultations and drew extensively on UNHCR's 2022 Individual Profiling Exercise data in defining refugee vulnerability. Currently, the most vulnerable beneficiaries receive 60 per cent of the food ration, the moderately vulnerable receive 30 per cent, and the least vulnerable have been transitioned off food assistance. In 2024, partners will assess the needs and causes of food insecurity across the different settlements through the food and nutrition security monitoring and evaluation systems, such as the Food Security and Nutrition Assessment (FSNA) and Mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (MVAM) as well as the post-distribution monitoring (PDM), to inform the targeting criteria for individual households based on needs and context. The choice of the assistance modality will continue to be based on feasibility and appropriateness (In-kind or Cash transfer) while taking into consideration the needs of specific groups such as women, girls, and people with disabilities.

Jeina Kiko is a single refugee mother in Rhino Camp refugee settlement, ever since the food ration cuts, she says she sleeps hungry so that her child can have a little more to eat.,"My daughter has no food, clothing and doesn't even attend school, sometimes, I think I have failed as a mother". @ Dixon Odur / Norwegian Refugee Council

PUBLIC HEALTH & NUTRITION

The Public Health and Nutrition sector aims to strengthen the provision of equitable, safe, quality, and sustainable health services for new arrivals, refugees, and host communities. Comprehensive primary health care services for refugees are to be integrated into the national health system. Emphasis will be laid on strengthening disease prevention through health promotion, the use of Village Health Teams and Refugee Welfare Councils, and the provision of curative, palliative and rehabilitative services, as guided by the Health Sector Integrated Refugee Response Plan (HSIRRP) 2019-2024. The overall goal will be to have improved healthy and productive lives through reducing maternal and perinatal morbidity and mortality, providing sexual and reproductive health services including to GBV survivors, reducing morbidity and mortality associated with HIV/TB, reducing mortality and disability from communicable and non-communicable diseases, enhancing well-being through mental health and psychosocial support services; and reduce malnutrition.

LIVELIHOODS & RESILIENCE (AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION)

In a context of high levels of poverty and diminishing external funding, the only way forward for most refugees is to seize economic opportunities and become self-sufficient. The Livelihood and Resilience sector aims to ensure that all refugees and host communities live peacefully and progressively attain self-resilience in a conducive environment. Primarily

driven by the fact that most of the settlements are in fertile rural areas with accessible land, agriculture remains the dominant sector of employment for 44 per cent of all refugees in the country. At least 70 per cent of this number are South Sudan refugees. Key to the sector is promoting surplus agricultural production and facilitating employment linkages and enterprise development. The priorities of the livelihood and resilience sector are aligned with Uganda's Jobs and Livelihoods Integrated Response Plan (JLIRP) and the National Development Plan III (2020/21 – 2025/26).

As part of the Global Refugee Forum, the Government has pledged to create a minimum of 300,000 viable economic opportunities for refugees and host communities by 2027. Partners will advocate and facilitate access to sufficient farmland and address low production to improve food and nutrition security. In addition, they will support value-addition initiatives, promote access to better produce markets, provide market-driven skills training, promote gender equality and women's empowerment, encourage private sector investment activity, and facilitate apprenticeships and job placements.

SETTLEMENT & SHELTER/HOUSING

In 2024, the Settlement and Shelter/Housing sector, will cover the environment and energy Sector will ensure that refugees benefit from a healthy, sustainable environment and improved accomodation. Achieving a healthy environment that also meets the community's needs for shelter, water, livelihoods, and settlement services requires an integrated, area-based approach to settlement planning that considers land-carrying capacity, sustainability of natural resources, safety and accessibility, and community priorities. Before the relocation of new arrivals, land will be systematically planned and demarcated for appropriate uses, following a master plan approach to settlement planning. Through awareness-creation and sensitization, refugees and host communities will be mobilized to actively carry out tree-growing initiatives at household, institutional, and community levels. The sector will continue to strengthen efforts to support the Government's Global Refugee Forum pledges to include refugees and their specific situations in its climate change adaptation and mitigation action plans aimed at effectively reducing the carbon emissions from deforestation and enhancing access to safe, clean, and affordable energy in refugee hosting districts by 2027.

The sector will continue to ensure that refugees receive timely emergency shelter materials and NFI support. These materials include plastic sheeting, wooden poles, nails, rope and a machete. A plot of land is also allocated for farming and for the refugee family to put up emergency shelters which they may later upgrade to semi-permanent shelters. Partners will also continue to prioritize cash-based shelter and NFI assistance to empower refugees and contribute to local economic growth.

WASH

WASH partners aim to improve access to equitable, sustainable, safe water, sanitation, and hygiene services. The needs of the population and of the environment will remain at the centre of all interventions, and innovative approaches will be explored to help refugees and host communities to achieve self-reliance. The specific needs of refugee groups, including people with disabilities and women, will be addressed. Although the Water and Environment Refugee Response Plan (WESRRP) expired in June 2023, its main principles continue to guide implementation, complemented by the UNHCR WASH country strategy. The review and drafting of the WESRRP II is underway and will be completed by June 2024. Partners will also focus on integrating refugee WASH services into systems managed by government institutions, such as the Ministry of Water and Environment, Catchment Management Committees, utilities and the District Local Governments. In 2024, WASH service improvements are expected in households and institutional spaces like schools and health facilities to meet the minimum standards. In line with the objectives of the Energy and Environment sub-sector, the use of renewable energy for water pumping will be promoted. Community engagement in

managing facilities and services will be strengthened to improve participation and ownership. Finally, opportunities to engage with the private sector will be explored.

BASIC NEEDS

Building on the initial Common Cash Approach (CCA) developed in 2020, the Cash Working Group (CWG) is now proposing a Harmonized Cash Approach (HCA), to position cash as a preferred modality for humanitarian assistance delivery across sectors and to build a conducive environment for successfully implementing interventions promoting financial inclusion of refugees. The HCA is structured around three pillars, namely enhancing access to and quality of financial services for refugees; using humanitarian cash assistance as a catalyst for financial inclusion and strengthening ties to self-reliance; and harmonizing interventions for greater efficiency and increased humanitarian assistance volume delivered through digital financial services.

Concrete activities of the HCA implemented by the CWG and its members include the roll-out of Financial Literacy Training Minimum Standards, endorsed by the Bank Of Uganda, a shift towards increased utilization of digital financial services for delivering cash and food assistance, the monetization of the new arrival assistance packages, improved reporting for humanitarian cash actors using UNHCR's ProGres and building synergies with cash actors beyond the refugee response.

The CWG, in collaboration with the Livelihoods and Resilience Working Group, the Bank of Uganda, OPM, donors, and various financial service providers, is working closely to implement this new strategy effectively. Additionally, the CWG is strengthening its collaboration with refugee-led organizations. The scaling up of cash initiatives will be closely monitored, considering market functionality, accessibility, and availability.

Partnership and Coordination

The UCRRP promotes the strategic priorities identified by the Government of Uganda and its partners, with interventions aligned to national policies and strategies. It seeks to complement other international assistance in the country. Uganda's refugee response is co-led by UNHCR and the Department of Refugees within the OPM.

The multi-stakeholder and whole-of-society refugee response is coordinated under the leadership of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) Steering Group, which is the main policy and decision-making body for the implementation of the CRRF. The Steering Group is co-led by the Office of the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Local Government in a national arrangement for the fulfilment of Global Compact on Refugees commitments, and it includes government departments and agencies, local authorities, development and humanitarian donors, UN agencies, NGOs, the private sector, and international financial institutions in its membership. The CRRF Steering Group also involves the participation of affected populations, with five Ugandan nationals and two refugees representing their communities.

The Refugee Engagement Forum and the District Engagement Forum are quarterly events that bring together refugee leaders from all settlements and representation of refugee hosting districts to Kampala ahead of the CRRF SG meetings to provide communities with a platform that amplifies their voices and issues are brought to the attention of the Steering Group in a timely manner.

Inter-Agency Financial Requirements

90 Partners involved	9 UN Agencies	64 INGO International NGOs	17 NGO National NGOs
	$ 340,619,399	$ 143,800,989	$ 18,413,652
		11 INGO FBOs	1 NGO RLOs / 4 NGO WLOs
		$34,455,680	$ 645,000 / $ 5,553,499

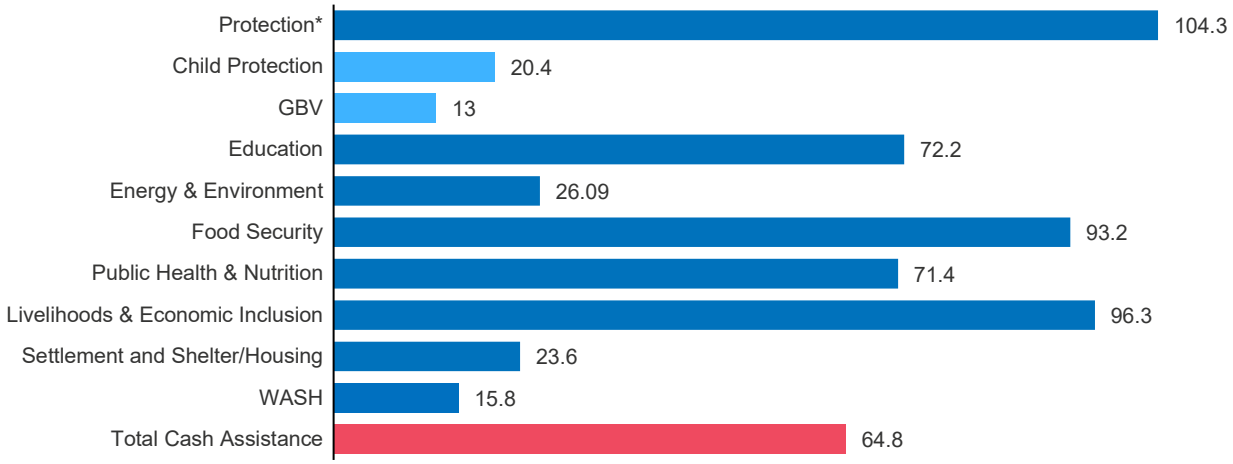
***Notes**: This list only includes appealing organizations under the RRP, many of which collaborate with implementing partners to carry out RRP activities. See 'Budget Summary by Partner' for partner breakdown per type.*

The amount listed for the FBOs, RLOs and WLOs are subsets of the amount listed above for the International NGOs and National NGOs.

Total Financial Requirements In USD **$ 503 M**

Budget summary by sector at country level

Million in USD



** CP and GBV budgets are subsets of the Protection budget.*

Total Protection requirements **$ 104,254,475**

Other protection activities	Of which is GBV	Of which is Child Protection
$ 70,862,097	$ 13,001,162	$ 20,391,216
68% of total	12% of total	20% of total

Total Cash Assistance requirements* **$ 64,779,008**

Public Health & Nutrition	Food security	Settlement and Shelter/Housing
$ 7,948,709	$ 56,305,299	$ 525,000

** This is a breakdown by sector of the requirements for cash assistance which are included in the above total sectoral budgets. Cash assistance is pursued and reflected as a key modality of assistance and protection in line with UNHCR's CBI Policy 2022-2026. Cash assistance is used as a cross-cutting modality across the various sectors, including protection, and is budgeted for accordingly and in line with a basic needs approach. As the modality of choice of the people we work with, cash assistance will be used as the primary means to meet immediate basic needs and provide important protection outcomes.*

Budget Summary by Partner

Partner	Acronym / Short Title	Type	Requirements in US$
International NGO			**143,800,989**
Action Against Hunger	ACF	INGO	4,500,000
Adventist Development and Relief Agency	ADRA	INGO/FBO	11,500,000
Africa Humanitarian Action	AHA	INGO	18,300
African Partners for Child Poverty	APPCO	INGO	1,950,000
African Women Rising	AWR	INGO	1,945,972
Aga Khan Foundation (Uganda)	Aga Khan	INGO	500,000
Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development	ACTED	INGO	300,000
Alliance Forum for Development	AFOD	INGO	760,000
ARC/Alight	Alight	INGO	2,005,445
Association of Volunteers in International Service	AVSI	INGO	1,453,215
Ayuda en Acción	AyudaEA	INGO	430,211
Brass for Africa	BfA	INGO	260,000
Building Resources Across Communities	BRAC	INGO	5,577,894
Caritas Uganda	Caritas	INGO/FBO	1,289,661
Child Voice International	Child Voice	INGO	160,000
ChildFund International	CFI	INGO	230,000
Cooperation and Development	C&D	INGO	100,000
Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere	CARE	INGO	2,550,000
Cooperazione e Sviluppo	CESVI	INGO	400,000
DAI Global LLC	DAI	INGO	250,000
DanChurchAid	DCA	INGO/FBO	2,250,000
Danish Refugee Council	DRC	INGO	2,057,472
Doctors with Africa CUAMM	CUAMM	INGO	300,000
Finn Church Aid	FCA	INGO/FBO	5,000,000
Finnish Mission Uganda	FIDA/FMU	INGO/FBO	135,000
Finnish Refugee Council	FRC	INGO	1,174,000
Food for the Hungry	FH	INGO/FBO	1,610,000
Give Directly	Give Directly	INGO	2,800,000
Haileybury Youth Trust	HYT	INGO	470,000
HealthRight International	HRI	INGO	450,000
HelpAge International, UK	HelpAge	INGO	55,000
Hope Health Action East Africa	HHA	INGO	464,000
Humanitarian Initiative Just Relief Aid	HIJRA	INGO	350,000
Humanity&Inclusion	HI	INGO	950,000
International Aid Services	IAS	INGO	250,000
International Refugee Rights Initiative	IRRI	INGO	450,000
International Rescue Committee	IRC	INGO	9,569,000
IsraAID	IsraAID	INGO	182,000
Jesuit Refugee Service	JRS	INGO/FBO	1,362,779
Lutheran World Federation	LWF	INGO/FBO	4,130,914
Malteser International	Malteser	INGO	679,147
Medical Teams International	MTI	INGO	3,797,910
Mercy Corps	MC	INGO	6,000,000
Norwegian Refugee Council	NRC	INGO	8,420,000
Oxford Committee for Famine Relief	Oxfam	INGO	2,650,000

Peace Winds Japan	PWJ	INGO	61,390
Plan International	Plan	INGO	3,044,898
Raising Gabdho Foundation	RGF	INGO	300,000
Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative	REPSSI	NGO	7,936,720
Right to Play	RtP	INGO	250,000
Safe Home Africa	Safe Home Africa	INGO	59,000
Save the Children International	SCI	INGO	17,300,000
Self Help Africa	SHA	INGO	1,000,000
Simbi Foundation (formerly The Walking School Bus)	Simbi/TWSB	INGO	40,000
Street Child	Street Child	INGO	744,573
Swiss Church Aid	HEKS/EPER (SCA)	INGO/FBO	650,000
Village Enterprise	VE	INGO	95,000
War Child Canada	WCC	INGO	4,500,000
War Child Holland	WCH	INGO	2,000,000
Welthungerhilfe	WHH	INGO	73,902
Windle International Uganda	WIU	INGO	6,980,260
World Vision International	WVI	INGO/FBO	6,420,000
World Youth Organization	WYO	INGO	500,000
ZOA International	ZOA/FBO	INGO/FBO	107,326
National NGO			**18,413,652**
African Women and Youth Action for Development	AWYAD	NNGO/WLO	1,710,000
Andre Foods International	AFI	NNGO	569,808
Baylor college of Medicine Children's Foundation-Uganda	BAYLOR	NNGO	216,241
Care and Assistance for Forced Migrants	CAFOMI	NNGO	1,061,780
Community Empowerment for Rural Development	CEFORD	NNGO	3,719,430
Hopelink Action Foundation Uganda	HAF Uganda	NNGO	270,000
Humanitarian Assistance and Development Services	HADS	NNGO	85,000
I CAN South Sudan	I CAN SSD	NNGO/RLO	645,000
Luigi Giussani Foundation	LGF	NNGO	75,000
Refugee Law Project	RLP	NNGO	1,700,000
Soroti Rural Development Agency	SORUDA	NNGO	350,000
Transcultural Psychosocial Organization	TPO	NNGO	996,000
Trust Synergy Foundation - Uganda	TSFU	NNGO	2,939,000
Tusitukire Wamu Group	TWG	NNGO/WLO	3,700,000
Uganda Community Based Association for Women and Children Welfare	UCOBAC	NNGO/WLO	13,499
Uganda Refugee Disaster and Management Council	URDMC	NNGO	232,894
Women and Rural Development Network	WORUDET	NNGO/WLO	130,000
United Nations			**340,619,399**
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	FAO	UN	11,500,000
International Organization for Migration	IOM	UN	10,830,769
UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women	UNWOMEN	UN	4,300,000
United Nations Children's Fund	UNICEF	UN	8,624,725
United Nations Development Programme	UNDP	UN	12,500,000
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	UNHCR	UN	188,869,320
United Nations Population Fund	UNFPA	UN	10,387,982
United Nations World Food Programme	UNWFP	UN	90,498,603
World Health Organization	WHO	UN	3,108,000
			Total: $ 502,834,040

Annex – Regional and Countries Monitoring Targets

Sector		Indicator	Regional	DRC	Ethiopia	Kenya	Sudan	Uganda
	Protection	% of refugees registered on an individual basis	**100%**	100%	98%	100%	100%	100%
	Child Protection	% of children at risk supported through Best Interests Procedure	**49%**	100%	82%	100%	67%	32%
		% of unaccompanied and separated children placed in alternative care	**96%**	100%	99%	100%	89%	96%
		Ratio of refugee children to caseworker	**1:25**	1:25	1:25	1:25	1:25	1:25
	GBV	% of GBV survivors assisted with appropriate support	**96%**	100%	100%	100%	67%	100%
	Education	% of refugee children enrolled in ECD	**50%**	N/A	42%	72%	-	48%
		% of refugee children enrolled in primary school/temporary learning spaces	**72%**	100%	64%	105%	41%	96%
		% of refugee children enrolled in secondary school/temporary learning spaces	**17%**	4.22%	27%	65%	6%	13%
		% of refugee children enrolled in national schooling systems	**26%**	57.52%	4%	5%	31%	29%
		% of refugees enrolled in tertiary education (higher education, connected learning programmes, scholarships)	**1%**	0.06%	4.34%	5.92%	0.26%	0.22%
	Food Security	% of refugees benefitting from food assistance (in kind/CBI)	**88%**	100%	100%	81%	68%	100%
	Public Health & Nutrition	% of refugee women delivering with assistance from qualified personnel	**97%**	99%	100%	95%	90%	99%
		% SAM prevalence among children aged 6-59 months	**1%**	<2%	< 2.0%	<2%	<2%	1%
		% GAM prevalence among children aged 6-59 months	**9%**	<10%	<15.0%	<10%	<10%	9%
		% Stunting prevalence among children aged 6-59 months	**12%**	<20%	<20%	<20%	<20%	12%

		% Anaemia prevalence among children aged 6-59 months	**38%**	<20%	<20%	<45%	<20%	38%
		% Anaemia prevalence among women of reproductive age 15-49 years (non-pregnant or lactating)	**28%**	<20%	<20%	<40%	<20%	28%
	Livelihoods & Resilience (and Socio-Economic Inclusion)	% of refugees (18-59) receiving productive assets, training and/or business support in cash or in kind	**22%**	60%	10%	12%	25%	25%
		% refugees employed/self employed	**35%**	17%	10%	18%	0%	75%
	Settlement & Shelter/Housing	% of refugee households living in permanent shelter	**7%**	n/a	n/a	11%	6%	n/a
		% of refugee households living in semi-permanent shelter	**30%**	n/a	49%	71%	43%	0.24%
		% refugee households living in emergency shelter	**25%**	13%	8%	2%	68%	4%
		% of refugee households whose shelter was upgraded/repaired	**9%**	5%	2%	2%	12%	n/a
		% of refugee households who received adequate non-food items	**14%**	n/a	5%	5%	44%	4%
		% of refugee households who have adequate non-food items	**35%**	n/a	10%	112%	59%	4%
		% of refugee households with energy saving stove and equipment	**22%**	**n/a**	33%	29%	20%	17%
	WASH	% of refugee households with family latrine	**65%**	n/a	85%	79%	32%	78%
		Litres of water received per person per day	**20L**	n/a	20L	20L	20L	20L
		% of refugee households with sufficient soap for hygiene	**49%**	57%	70%	100%	75%	4%

2024 South Sudan Regional RRP Partners

Action Against Hunger

Action for the Needy in Ethiopia

Adventist Development and Relief Agency

Africa Humanitarian Action

African Humanitarian Aid and Development Agency

African Partners for Child Poverty

African Relief Committee

African Women and Youth Action for Development

African Women Rising

Aga Khan Foundation (Uganda)

Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development

Al Manar Voluntary Organization

Alliance Forum for Development

Alsalam Organization for Rehabilitation and Development

Andre Foods International

ARC/Alight

Association of Volunteers in International Service

Ayuda en Acción

Baylor college of Medicine Children's Foundation-Uganda

Brass for Africa

Building Resources Across Communities

Care and Assistance for Forced Migrants

Caritas Uganda

Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

Child Voice International

Child Fund International

Comitato Internazionale Per Lo Sviluppo Dei Popoli

Community Empowerment for Rural Development

Concern Worldwide

Cooperation and Development

Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere

Cooperazione e Sviluppo

Cooperazione Internazionale

DAI Global LLC

Danish Church Aid

Danish Refugee Council

Doctors with Africa CUAMM

DONBOSCO Kakuma

Ethiopian Orthodox Church Development and Interchurch Aid Commission Refugee and Returnee Affairs Department

Film Aid Kenya

Finn Church Aid

Finnish Mission Uganda

Finnish Refugee Council

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Food for the Hungry

Give Directly

Global Aid Hand

GOAL

Haileybury Youth Trust

Healthcare Foundation Organization

HealthRight International

HelpAge International, UK

Hope and Friendship for Development Organization

Hope Health Action East Africa

Hopelink Action Foundation Uganda

Human Appeal

Humanitarian Assistance and Development Services

Humanitarian Initiative Just Relief Aid

Humanity & Inclusion

I CAN South Sudan

International Aid Services

International Medical Corps

International Organization for Migration

International Refugee Rights Initiative

International Rescue Committee

Islamic Relief Worldwide

IsraAID

JASMAR

Jesuit Refugee Service

Kenya Red Cross Society

Lotus Kenya Action for Development Organization

Luigi Giussani Foundation

Lutheran World Federation

Malteser International

Medical Teams International

Mercy Corps

Mutawinat

NADA

Norwegian Church Aid

Norwegian Refugee Council

Okapi Green Ltd

Oxford Committee for Famine Relief

Peace Winds Japan

Plan International

Raising Gabdho Foundation

Refugee Law Project

Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative

Relief International

Response Team Organization

Right to Play

Safe Home Africa

Save the Children International

Self Help Africa

Simbi Foundation (formerly The Walking School Bus)

Soroti Rural Development Agency

Street Child

Swiss Church Aid

Terres Des Hommes

The BOMA Project

The Toolkit Foundation

Transcultural Psychosocial Organization

Trust Synergy Foundation - Uganda

Tusitukire Wamu Group

Uganda Community Based Association for Women and Children Welfare

Uganda Refugee Disaster and Management Council

UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

United Nations Children's Fund

United Nations Development Programme

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

United Nations Human Settlements Programme

United Nations Population Fund

United Nations World Food Programme

Village Enterprise

War Child Canada

War Child Holland

Welthungerhilfe

Windle International Kenya

Windle International Uganda

Women and Rural Development Network

World Health Organization

World Vision International

World Youth Organization

ZOA International

The refugee women sell the vegetables to both Kenyans and refugees, making money to support their families in different ways and children with education materials.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

South Sudan Data Portal - https://data.unhcr.org/southsudan

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