Snapshot of the sectoral response in Maban County, Upper Nile, South Sudan

- 4 Refugee camps
- 217,451 Refugees
- 26,242 Sudanese new arrivals
- 10 Health clinics/units
- 1 Hospital "Bunj Hospital"
- 2 Reception centers
- 226 Water tap stands
- 24 Primary schools
- 3 Secondary schools
- 4 Community centers
- 4 Women centers
- 4 Youth centers

Background and Population Figures

Maban County in South Sudan hosts four major refugee camps, Doro, Gendrassa, Kaya and Yusuf Batil, which together shelter approximately 217,451 refugees and asylum-seekers, comprising 44,255 households, primarily from Sudan's Blue Nile State. These camps were established following the outbreak of conflict between the Sudan People's Liberation Army/Movement-North (SPLA/M-N) and the Sudanese Armed Forces, particularly after South Sudan's independence in 2011. Two of these camps have been designated for the reception of new arrivals (Doro and Kaya), helping to manage the ongoing influx of displaced individuals seeking safety and support.

Since April 16, 2023, over 26,242 refugees and asylum-seekers fleeing the ongoing Sudan conflict have arrived in Maban County's camps. They receive protection and assistance from UNHCR and its partners. Key entry points into South Sudan include Renk, Al Foj, Shatta/Yabus, Khortumbak, and Guffa, with most refugees relying on personal transportation to reach the camps.

According to the local authorities, there are approximately **84,000** people living in host communities surrounding the four refugee camps in Upper Nile State.

Sudanese refugee Osman, 25, runs a small business selling ground nuts, dried okra and fresh onions at the Doro refugee camp in Bunj, Maban County.
Osman fled the conflict in Sudan with his family, arriving first at Renk transit centre near the border, before being assisted by UNHCR to travel to the Doro site, where his business complements assistance he receives from UNHCR and partners.

Sectorial Response

Protection

Partner: International Rescue Committee (IRC

- Protection services across the four Maban refugee camps are delivered through a coordinated effort led by UNHCR and its partner IRC, utilizing a community-based protection approach consistently applied across all sectors. Outreach volunteers play a key role in identifying and referring vulnerable individuals, ensuring comprehensive support for refugees. The services include functional Protection and Legal Desks, which receives, and response to appeals claims for inclusion into targeted food assistance, protection cases including persons with specific needs identified and refer to available services, managing feedback entries to improve responsiveness and accountability, and provision of support for Child Protection (CP) cases and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) including sexual exploitation and abuse cases, while addressing critical protection needs.
- The team also oversees Resettlement Processes (RST), in August 2025, UNHCR successful facilitated 41 refugees for resettlement to Australia, ongoing processes for other cases under Canada resettlement consideration. Refugee status Determination (RSD) procedures are undertaken for asylum seekers through the government with support of UNHCR in determining the status of registered asylum seekers caseload in the operation. From May to August 2025, Protection interventions reached a total of 10,592 people (e.g. legal assistance, in-kind material support to vulnerable, specialized protection services and awareness-raising activities). Protection and border monitoring are conducted at the four border crossing points to and from Sudan and Ethiopia, tracking population movement, access to asylum, and documenting protection issues impacting the refugees, asylum seekers, returnees, over the humanitarian assistances in the camps.
- Refugee-Led Organizations (RLOs) continue to play a vital role in strengthening community resilience and leadership across the camps in Maban. Currently, five RLOs are active, including in:
  - Gendrassa: the Refugee Central Committee (RCC) and the Farmers Enterprise Network (FEN) are engaged in community mobilization and support.
  - Yusuf Batil: the Refugee Development Organization (RDO) is active.
- In Doro and Batil, two Women-Led Organizations (WLOs), Women and Girl Development Organization and Women Empowerment Network Organization, are in the process of being established. These WLOs aim to implement programs focused on women's empowerment and life skills for adolescent girls. Collectively, these organizations ensure refugee voices are represented, and community-driven solutions are prioritized in camp governance and development.

Despite significant operational challenges—including reduced health and food services, the closure of child-friendly spaces, limited access to livelihood opportunities, and constrained resettlement options due to funding shortages—only essential protection services remain accessible to refugees in the camps

Education

Partner: Lutheran World Federation (LWF)

- UNHCR and LWF support education across Maban's four refugee camps, operating 24 primary schools (Doro: 8, Gendrassa: 4, Kaya: 5, Yusuf Batil: 7) and 3 secondary schools (2 in camps, 1 in the host community, serving both refugees and locals).
- Current enrolment stands at 30,294 learners (15,098 female, 15,124 male), reaching 54% of the annual target. Primary education accounts for 28,397 learners (77% of target), secondary for 1,770 (49%), and accelerated programs (ALP/AEP) for 55 (13%).
- There is also limited DAFI scholarship support for higher education. In 2025, DAFI scholarship opportunities covered 20 students, with 1 student supported in Turkey, and additional support from the Mastercard Foundation. Enrolment continues to demonstrate consistent annual growth, underscoring the program's sustained progress in expanding access to education for refugees and the host community.
- Early Childhood Development (ECD), comprising 37 centers across Batil, Doro, Gendrassa, and Kaya, remains closed due to funding cuts. These programs were never funded by UNHCR, leaving a critical gap in foundational learning for young children.

Sustained support is urgently needed to restore Early Childhood Development services and to expand access to secondary and tertiary education opportunities, including higher education scholarships.

Students taking the South Sudan Certificate for Primary Education (SSCPE) Exams, Maban, South Sudan. 2025.

© UNHCR/ Philip Lukudu

Health

Partner: Relief International (RI)

- All ten camp-based health facilities (Doro PHCC+, Penamayo PHCC, Doro Extension PHCU, Mayak PHCU, Batil PHCC, Batil PHCU, Gentil PHCC+, Gendrassa PHCC, Kaya PHCC, and Kaya PHCU), including Maban County Hospital, have been handed over to the government-led Health Sector Transformation Project (HSTP).

Sanitary kits distribution, Maban, South Sudan. 2025.

- While the facilities remain operational through government-recruited staff, the health sector faces significant challenges in provision of ambulances, staffing numbers, covering night shifts, stockouts of medicines and medical supplies, delays in incentive payments, and gaps in critical services such as clinical mental health, HIV/TB, and general nutrition, as well as in the referral system. There are also challenges in support services for the clinic (power, security, cleaning).
- UNHCR and partner through 2024-PRM funding, is currently covering some of these gaps in the areas of clinical mental health, HIV/TB, and general nutrition services, with support running until 30 September 2025.
- Additionally, UNHCR has secured funding to strengthen the referral system and reproductive health services at the main PHCCs, including the hospital. This project commenced on 1 July and will continue until 31 December 2025 and focuses primarily on improving maternal and neonatal health outcomes, strengthening referral systems, and enhancing the local capacity of government staff for sustainable service delivery.
- UNHCR is also supporting the HSTP in Maban with the provision of ambulances, additional doctors, nurses, medicines and medical supplies, and other essential items, as well as community engagement and coordination.

Urgent support is needed to sustain the basic operational capacity of the Health Sector Transformation Project (HSTP) and enable a smooth, sustainable handover to government authorities—ensuring continuity of care and long-term impact.

Food Security and Nutrition

Lead: WFP | Partner: Samaritan's Purse

- In Maban's refugee camps, food assistance is provided through a combination of in-kind and cash-based transfers, depending on the seasonality.
- Each camp has a designated distribution site, managed either by WFP or UNHCR, which ensures a conducive environment for refugees during distribution. Food assistance follows a targeted approach that began in September 2024, with a ration scale set at 50%, providing only 1,050 Kcal/person/day out of the recommended 2,100 Kcal/person/day. The food basket includes cereals (mainly sorghum), yellow split lentils, vegetable cooking oil, salt, and cash for milling.
- In the first quarter of 2025, no distribution was conducted across all camps. The first distribution of 2025 took place in April, using the targeted cash-based transfers modality. The May distribution followed the same modality. However, in June, distribution shifted to a hybrid modality in-kind for cereals and cash-based transfers for other items.
- The cash amounts vary monthly, based on market prices, to enable refugees to purchase cereals, pulses, lentils, oil, salt, and cover milling fees.
- New arrivals at the reception centres of Doro and Gendrassa camps continued to receive hot meals twice a day, prepared by partner Relief International (RI). These meals are provided before refugees are enrolled in the WFP monthly cash-for-food program, and following registration by UNHCR.

Water Hygiene and Sanitation (WASH)

Partner: Relief International (RI)

Solar panels powering the Hydro Water Plant Huffra, Kaya, Maban, South Sudan. 2025.

- These interventions aim to meet basic needs and improve safe access to sufficient quantity and quality water, as well as enhance sanitation, hygiene practices, and WASH services in institutions such as health and nutrition facilities, and schools.
- Water supply across the four Maban refugee camps is provided through various systems, including hand pumps, boreholes powered by generators and solar energy, generator-only boreholes, and solar-only boreholes, or a combination of both.
- There are 226 tap stands distributed throughout the communities and institutions of the four camps. However, the daily water consumption per person across all camps remains below the minimum standard of 20 liters per person per day (20 l/p/d). This shortfall is primarily due to lack

of funding to upgrade the current water supply system with solarization. Climatic impact on water table could not make us meeting the standard due to water table getting lower over years. To ensure water safety, daily monitoring is conducted through chlorination and checks for Free Residual Chlorine (FRC). Hygiene promotion activities are carried out both at water points and within the communities.

- In terms of sanitation, 1,340 latrines were constructed across the camps by the end of June through a community-led approach. UNHCR, through its partner RI, has also built emergency shared family latrines and bathing shelters to support newly arrived refugees. At the reception centres of Doro and Gendrassa, partner AIRD constructed blocks of VIP latrines to improve sanitation conditions.

Shelter and NFIs Partner: African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD)

- In 2025, shelter interventions across the four camps have focused on providing emergency shelters for new arrivals, alongside enhanced site management activities to improve living conditions.
- Presently, emergency shelter construction is being carried out in Doro, Gendrassa and Kaya camps while Batil is not considered due to limited space.
- Newly arriving refugees are accommodated at reception centers in Gendrassa and Doro for up to five days while completing registration. However, some individuals stay longer than the standard period due to their individual protection related concerns. During this period, emergency family shelters are constructed, and core relief items are distributed to them in preparation for relocation to designated shelters within the camps.
- Site management activities have significantly improved across all camps. These include enhanced site planning and the rehabilitation of critical infrastructure such as dykes, internal roads, and drainage systems. These efforts aim to improve access within residential blocks, enhance connectivity to service areas and camp facilities, and mitigate flooding risks.
- Long-term refugees have upgraded many of their shelters by on their own reinforcing walls and roofs using local materials like thatch, straw, and mud, while also expanding their homes with makeshift extensions. Meanwhile, efforts continue to transition households from emergency to more durable shelters, steadily improving living conditions throughout the camps as and when resources are available, however, this area remains as a gap due to limited funding.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management Partner: International Rescue Committee (IRC)

- UNHCR and IRC, as CCCM partners, ensure coordination between humanitarian actors and refugees through camp-based structures, including the Camp Executive Committees (CEC). In all four camps, Doro, Gendrassa, Batil, and Kaya, CEC members are democratically elected by refugees, fostering leadership skills and promoting democratic governance for future aspirations.
- Women's participation in community mobilization and self-managed structures stands at 45%, enhancing their role in identifying protection concerns and designing community-led solutions. The CEC works closely with sector committees that include Health, Nutrition, WASH, Education, Shelter, Community Peace Team, Community Watch Group, Women, Youth, Food Management, Social Welfare, Food Security and Livelihood, and Environment and Energy, to ensure coordinated service delivery.
- The CEC also leads in community mobilization, information dissemination, governance, and grievance handling, while the Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA) oversees its operations, ensuring accountability and refugee representation across all camps.

CONTACT

Head of Sub-Office, Silvia Alkebeh
alkebeh@unhcr.org

Scan me and get to South Sudan´s Operational Data Portal:
https://data.unhcr.org/en/country/ssd