

## Snapshot of the sectoral response in Maban County, South Sudan

# Kaya Refugee Camp



34,571  
Refugees in  
Kaya



3,277  
Sudanese  
new arrivals



2  
Health  
clinic



5  
Primary  
schools



43  
Water  
tap stands



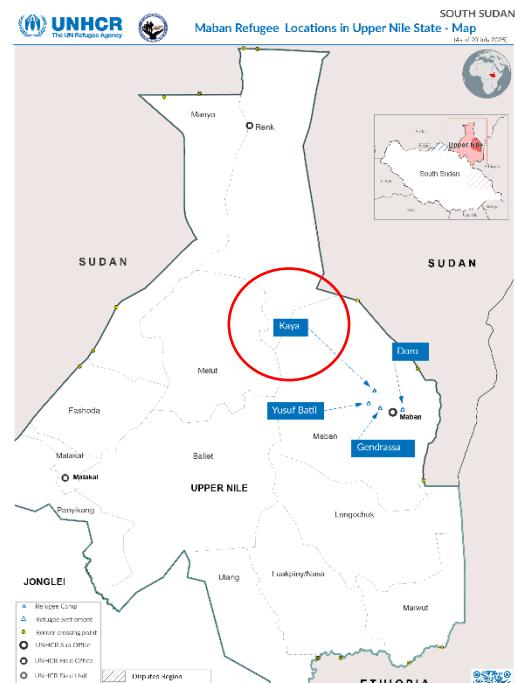
1  
Reception  
centre



1  
Police Post

### Background

- Since April 16, 2023, over 3,277 refugees and asylum-seekers have fled the Sudan conflict and arrived at Kaya camp, receiving protection assistance from UNHCR and partners.
- Key entry points to South Sudan include Renk and El Foj, with most refugees using personal transportation to reach the camp.
- Located 74 kilometers from Sudan's border, Kaya camp, covers 7.0 km<sup>2</sup>, and is the third largest of the four refugee camps in Maban County, housing over 34,822 people.
- The camp is currently exceeding its actual capacity (34,571), and the ongoing conflict in Sudan continues to increase the camp's population, straining forests, land, water and basic services facilities.
- Kaya camp was established in 2013 to shelter Sudanese refugees from Blue Nile State fleeing conflict between the SPLA/M-N and Sudanese Armed Forces post-South Sudan's independence. The majority of refugees in the camp are from the Ingesana community.
- Kaya remains one of the designated refugee-hosting sites in Maban County identified by the Government of South Sudan for those seeking safety from the ongoing Sudan conflict.



New Arrival from El-Foj at Kaya Checkpoint. Maban, South Sudan.  
March 2025.



## Sectoral Response



### Protection

Protection services provided in the camp include a **Protection and Legal Desk** managed by partner IRC and a **Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support (MHPSS) Desk** managed by JRS at the Community Center. IRC receives protection concerns or requests for re-assessment for inclusion in food targeting at the Protection and Legal Desk.

At the **UNHCR field post**, services include registration and documentation, a protection referral desk, a feedback and response desk, and a child protection desk. The team also oversees **Refugee Status Determination (RST)** pending and moved cases, which remain relatively stable month-to-month, while facilitating referrals for RST consideration where needed.

A **GBV desk** is provided by IRC at the **Women's Center**. In addition, the **Community Center** facilitates engagement activities and participation opportunities for communities. The services include handling Protection and Legal Desk cases, which encompass appeals, managing feedback entries to improve responsiveness and accountability, and the provision of support for Child Protection (CP) cases and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) cases, as well as addressing critical protection needs.

Despite operational challenges, such as the closure of child-friendly spaces due to funding shortages, essential protection services continue to be accessible to refugees in the camp.



### WASH

WASH interventions in Kaya Camp are implemented by partner Relief International (RI). These interventions aim to meet basic needs and improve **safe access to water of sufficient quality and quantity**, as well as sanitation, hygiene practices, and WASH services in institutions such as health and nutrition facilities and schools. Water supply in Kaya Camp is provided through a **system of boreholes** powered by both generators and solar energy (**6 units**).

There are **43 tap stands** distributed across the camp's communities and institutions. On average, the **daily water consumption per person is 13.5 litres, which is below the minimum standard of 20 litres per person per day (l/p/d)**. This shortfall is primarily due to climate variability, system failures, leakages, and worn-out fittings, among other factors. Daily water safety monitoring is conducted through chlorination and checks for Free Residual Chlorine (FRC).

**Hygiene promotion** activities are carried out by the WASH team at water points and within

the communities. In terms of sanitation, using a community-led approach, RI supported the construction of **254** household latrines by the end of June. Additionally, UNHCR and RI have constructed emergency family-shared latrines and bathing shelters to support refugees while they await the opportunity to build their own facilities in the future.



### Shelter

Newly arrived refugees are initially accommodated at the **reception center** for up to five days while undergoing registration.

During this period, **emergency family shelters and latrines are constructed**, and Core Relief Items (CRIIs) are distributed to prepare them for relocation to newly built shelters. Once construction is completed, the refugees are relocated accordingly. Currently, **new shelter construction is ongoing in Block A**.

Refugees in the camp also benefit from **site management activities**, including the construction and rehabilitation of dykes to channel water flow and mitigate flooding. Additionally, **internal roads and drainage systems** are being rehabilitated to ensure safe and convenient access to residential blocks and essential service areas.



### CCCM

UNHCR and its partner IRC work to ensure coordination between humanitarians and refugees through camp-based structures known as the **Camp Executive Committee (CEC)**.

The most recent elections were held in December 2024, with a two-year term designed to promote democratic leadership and community governance.

**Women represent 45% of participants in community structures**, contributing significantly to protection efforts and community-led solutions. As part of their Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) responsibilities, CECs support monthly coordination meetings, engage in community mobilization, manage grievances, and ensure information dissemination. They work closely with **sectoral committees**, including Health, Nutrition, WASH, Education, Shelter, Peace, Security, Women, Youth, Food, Social Welfare, Livelihoods, and Environment to ensure coordinated and effective service delivery.



### Health and Nutrition

Kaya Camp has **two health facilities**, Kaya PHCC and Kaya PHCU. Both facilities have been **handed over to the County Health Department-Maban**, the government line department. The two facilities have remained operational, with **23 CHD incentive staff assigned to the PHCC and 9 to the PHCU**, in line with the design of the Health Sector Transformation Project (HSTP).

All **two health facilities have reported stockouts of essential medicines and medical supplies**. In response, UNHCR donated assorted medicines and supplies to the two health facilities to support continued health service delivery. Throughout June, nutrition services were consistently provided at both facilities. Severely malnourished children with medical complications were referred to Gentil PHCC+ Stabilization Centre for treatment.



### Food Assistance

Food assistance in Kaya Camp is provided through WFP's partner, Samaritan's Purse, in coordination with UNHCR. Starting from September 2024, a targeted food distribution approach was

introduced, replacing blanket assistance. The new ration was set at **50%**, providing only **1,050 Kcal** per person per day. The food baskets include cereals (mainly sorghum), lentils, cooking oil, salt, and cash for milling.

In 2025, targeted distributions resumed in April, using the Cash-Based Transfer (CBT) modality for both April and May. In June, the distribution was hybrid, combining CBT and in-kind assistance. During the June distribution, a total of **16,781** out of **17,730** refugees representing **95.0%** received their entitlements. Distribution is conducted at primary sites managed by WFP.



### Education

School-aged new arrivals are being integrated into the education system.

More than **5,282 students** (refugee and host community) are currently enrolled in five primary schools across the camp.

However, there is only **one secondary school** "Bunj Secondary" serving the entire population.

**Access to tertiary education is extremely limited** and relies solely on the DAFI scholarships, which are available only to qualified refugees.

**All four early childhood education centers have been closed due to funding issues.**

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