

## INSIDE SOUTH SUDAN

**263,214**

Refugees in South Sudan

**1.9 M**

IDPs in South Sudan, including  
223,019 people in UNMISS  
Protection of Civilians site

**US \$172 million**

Funding requested for comprehensive  
needs in 2017

**US \$125 million**

Funding requested for priority needs  
in 2017

## OUTSIDE SOUTH SUDAN

**1,613,066**

South Sudanese refugees in  
neighboring countries (as of 28  
February, 2017):

- Uganda: 764,326
- Ethiopia: 349,086
- Sudan: 332,885
- Kenya: 93,601
- DRC: 71,529
- CAR: 1,639

**US \$649 million**

Funding requested by UNHCR for  
South Sudanese refugees in the region

**US \$166 million**

Funding received by UNHCR for  
South Sudanese refugees in the region

# UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE 05/2017

1-15 March 2017

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **UNHCR distributes relief items to IDPs in Western Bahr el Ghazal:** In Wau, UNHCR distributed non-food items (NFIs) to 4,483 most vulnerable IDPs including 1,175 at Nog-lima, 1,262 at Ngisa 2,046 at the Episcopal Church (ECS) of Sudan premises outside Wau town. NFIs included dignity kits for women of reproductive age, pieces of soap, secondhand clothes, jerry cans, and buckets. This intervention comes after the government granted access to the Baggari area, which has been inaccessible to aid agencies since 2016. Thousands of IDPs settled in Baggari County and surrounding villages as a result of the armed conflict which intensified around Wau in June 2016.
- **UNHCR commemorates International Women's Day across South Sudan:** Across South Sudan, UNHCR and its partners in collaboration with refugees, host community and IDPs celebrated the International Women's Day (IWD) on 8 March. The annual event was marked under the UNHCR theme: "UNHCR Supports Women's Right to Decent Work" and the global theme: "Women in a Changing World of Work: Planet 50-50 by 2030." UNHCR and partners organized a series of events including drama, processions, songs and speeches that raised awareness on the importance of education for women and girls, ending violence against women and girls, peaceful co-existence, and gender equality.
- **UNHCR launches Biometric Identity Management System in South Sudan:** In Juba, UNHCR launched the Biometric Identity Management System (BIMS) following staff training and simulation with the support of refugees. BIMS is a multi-modular biometric system that allows the capture of 10 fingers and two iris scans, in addition to the picture, providing support to the operation in preserving and protection identities thus strengthening the provision of protection services such as assistance to refugees and other persons of concern to UNHCR. The system will be gradually rolled out across the South Sudan Operation through verification and continuous registration activities until the end of 2017.
- **UNHCR supports refugees in the formation Saving Loans Associations in Upper Nile:** In Yusuf Batil and Doro camps, UNHCR partner Relief International (RI) supported the formation of 11 Village Saving Loans Associations each comprising 20 members. The 220 Village Saving Loans Association members will undergo a 9-month training cycle on savings and loan concept as well as receive entrepreneurship training. The overall aim of establishing Village Saving Loans Associations is to ensure increased access to financial and social capital among persons of concern who participate in the association activities.
- **UNHCR gives startup business kits to refugees in Doro camp, Upper Nile state:** In Doro camp, UNHCR and partner RI issued business startup kits to 43 entrepreneurs following entrepreneurship training and business pitch competitions where viable proposals were awarded in-kind grants to establish small businesses. Small business ideas supported include Butchery and Livestock trade; Bakery; Snack and Teashop; Hairdressing and vegetable production.
- **UNHCR conducts Protection Monitoring Mission to Riimenze:** During the reporting period, UNHCR undertook a protection monitoring mission to Riimenze to assess the situation of 6,617 IDPs sheltering at the Catholic Church premises. The mission's findings included priority needs and gaps such as lack of food, non-food items, education, and health facilities. UNHCR briefed humanitarian actors in Yambio to intervene to fill the gaps identified above. Displacement was caused by fighting between government forces and armed youth in surrounding villages since 3 January 2017 near Riimenze 30 kilometers from Yambio town.

## OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

- **Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) urges global pressure to end South Sudan conflict:** On Friday 17 March SRSG, David Shearer urged the international community to speak with one voice, stressing that doing so would help put a bearing pressure on the rival South Sudanese leaders to create the political will for the parties to cease hostilities and build peace. “Standing together is the only way to move forward,” During a briefing to the African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, he told the African Union (AU) that the situation in South Sudan continues to deteriorate and generate profound human suffering in which local and ethnic divisions have been exploited for political ends. His statement noted that “conflict is apparent across the country.” “In recent weeks there has been an escalation of fighting in Equatoria and Upper Nile regions. Both have led to the significant and additional displacement of civilians,” he said He added that new armed groups and actors are emerging leaving South Sudan deeply divided, pointing out that a “circuit breaker is desperately needed.”
- **Local NGO confirms the death of 415 people from Hunger in Ayod County:** On Tuesday 14 March, a local NGO confirmed the death of 415 people from hunger in Ayod County in Jonglei region. The number of civilians who died of hunger in Ayod County in Pangak State, located in what is otherwise known as Pow State, has reached to at least 415, according to a local aid worker. Mr. Thomas Tut Gany, the Director of Christian Mission for Development, a local non-governmental organization, said the death occurred in Pagiell, Tharmouth, Kandak, Padiel and Buot areas. The World Food Program (WFP) started to drop some food to the conflict-affected people in Kuachdeng, Mogok and Wau areas. The local organization, which works across Ayod County, noted that the WFP plans to distribute food items to nearly 25,000 people in Wai and 32,000 others in Gurwai areas. According to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) update released by the government, three UN agencies and other humanitarian partners, some 100,000 people are facing starvation in parts of South Sudan where famine was declared on 20 February.
- **Japanese Self Defense Forces Announce Pull out from South Sudan:** In a statement on Friday 10 March, the Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe, declared that the Japanese Ground Self Defense Forces currently serving under the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) would soon withdraw from the country. Prime Minister Abe noted “As South Sudan enters a new phase of nation-building, we have judged that we are able to put an end to construction efforts in which the SDF is engaged in Juba.” Chief Cabinet Secretary, Yoshihide Suga confirmed that the Government had been looking into the pullout of our troops since around September last year, ahead of the fifth anniversary (of their dispatch to South Sudan)”. Troops will remain in South Sudan until May, a two-month extension beyond the originally envisaged 31 March 2017, after that the 350 troops primarily focused on engineering projects will withdraw.

## REFUGEE RESPONSE



### Protection

#### Achievements and impact

- Across South Sudan, UNHCR and its partners in collaboration with refugees, host community and IDPs celebrated the International Women’s Day (IWD) on 8 March. The annual event was marked under the UNHCR theme: “UNHCR Supports Women’s Right to Decent Work” and the global theme: “Women in a Changing World of Work: Planet 50-50 by 2030.” UNHCR and partners organized a series of events including drama, processions, songs and speeches that raised awareness on the importance of education for women and girls, ending violence against women and girls, peaceful co-existence, and gender equality.

#### Central Equatoria

- In Juba, UNHCR launched the Biometric Identity Management System (BIMS) following staff training and simulation with the support of refugees. BIMS is a multi-modular biometric system that allows the capture of 10 fingers and two iris scans, in addition to the picture, providing support to the operation in preserving and protection identities thus strengthening the provision of protection services such as assistance to refugees and other persons of concern to UNHCR. The system will be gradually rolled out across the South Sudan Operation through verification and continuous registration activities until the end of 2017.

#### Upper Nile

- In Maban, UNHCR, UNMISS Civil Affairs Department and partner Humanitarian Development Consortium (HDC) co-facilitated a two-days training to 52 participants on conflict management, prevention, peaceful resolution, reconciliation and sustainable peace. The second training, with the theme “Supporting traditional institutions and mechanism in conflict management” targeted Peace Committee and members of the traditional courts. Participants were drawn from traditional courts and peace committee from the host and refugees populations. Participants agreed that they would assist in disseminating peaceful coexistence commitments.

## Education

### Achievements and Impact

#### Upper Nile

- In Maban, UNHCR and its education partners Save the Children International (SCI), Lutheran's World Federation (LWF), and Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) in coordination with the County Education Office facilitated the South Sudan Secondary School Certificate Examinations, which commenced on 6 March 2017 for 306 candidates present for the final examination. About 75% candidates are refugee students attending the Bunj Secondary school together with the host community students.
- In Kaya, Yusuf Batil and Gendrassa camps, UNHCR and its partner LWF distributed 125 cartons of Exercise books to pupils in all primary Schools. While in Gendrassa UNHCR distributed underwear to adolescent girls.
- In Kaya, Yusuf Batil and Gendrassa camps, UNHCR partner LWF distributed 1,192 school uniforms to pupils.



## Food Security and Nutrition

### Identified needs and remaining gaps

#### Central Equatoria

- In Lasu Refugee Settlement, refugees continue to face lack of food in their hideouts as UNHCR and partners cannot access the settlement due to insecurity on the road to Lasu Payam.



## Water and Sanitation

### Achievements and impact

#### Upper Nile

- In Maban's three camps, the water supply coverage increased to the level of 21 liters per person per day, except for Kaya Camp where water coverage fluctuated during the reporting period – efforts are underway to bring the water supply to normal. Sanitation coverage stood at 12 persons per latrine in all camps.



## Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

### Achievements and impact

#### Upper Nile

- In Yusuf Batil and Doro camps, UNHCR partner Relief International (RI) supported the formation of 11 Village Saving Loans Associations each comprising 20 members. The 220 Village Saving Loans Association members will undergo a 9-month training cycle on savings and loan concept as well as receive entrepreneurship training. The overall aim of establishing Village Saving Loans Associations is to ensure increased access to financial and social capital among persons of concern who participate in the association activities.
- In Doro camp, UNHCR and partner RI issued business startup kits to 43 entrepreneurs following entrepreneurship training and business pitch competitions where viable proposals were awarded in-kind grants to establish small businesses. Small business ideas supported include Butchery and Livestock trade; Bakery; Snack and Teashop; Hairdressing and vegetable production.

#### Central Equatoria

- In Yei, UNHCR partner UMCOR through community based extension workers in Lasu, mobilized additional 54 farmers for first season cultivation, bringing the total to 101 farmers mobilized since the beginning of the year. The farmers are reportedly commenced the planting of vegetable and cereal crops to bridge the food gap.

### Identified needs and remaining gaps

#### Central Equatoria

- In Yei, continues insecurity on the access roads is hampering the delivery of assorted vegetable seeds and other supplies to Lasu refugee settlement.
- Lack of physical access to refugee locations reduced livelihood assistance provision by UNHCR and partners.



## Achievements and Impact

### Upper Nile

- In Yusuf Batil camp, UNHCR and its partner Relief International (RI) supported 20 women stove producers to undertake the mold of fuel efficient stoves. As a result, women produced 160 fuel-efficient clay stoves. The fuel efficient stoves will reduce fetching of firewood, environmental degradation and prevent Sexual Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in the surrounding areas of the camp.

## IDP RESPONSE



### COORDINATION

## Achievements and impact

### Upper Nile

- During the reporting period, UNHCR and partners Humanitarian Development Consortium (HDC), Samaritan Purse and government counterpart Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) conducted an inter-agency mission assess the situation of IDPs in Rambo and gather information following the reports from the government authorities on the new arrivals of IDPs in Rambo from Nassir Count and Benashawa (Maban County) living in a dire situation due to lack of food and health facilities. The assessment team found 345 HHs/1,343 individuals. Key findings included; IDPs are seeking safety in Rambo near the barracks as they feel safe with the presence of military; IDPs are suffering due to lack of food and lack of support; the presence of unaccompanied and separated children as well as missing children and parents. Key recommendations included immediate provision of food and NFIs support and continuous protection monitoring to monitor the population movements and dynamics.
- During the reporting period, UNHCR partner ADRA conducted a series of workshops on Sexual Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) prevention & response in Udier Banytik and Nyieng Gok Boma of Longechuk and Nasir counties to 150 community members. Also in Nasir, ADRA organized another workshop on peaceful co-existence to 30 people consisting of the local authority, religious and opinion leaders, IDPs and host community representatives.

### Western Equatoria

- During the reporting period, UNHCR undertook a protection monitoring mission to Riimenze to assess the situation of 6,617 IDPs sheltering at the Catholic Church premises. The mission's findings included priority needs and gaps such as lack of food, non-food items, education, and health facilities. UNHCR briefed humanitarian actors in Yambio to intervene to fill the gaps identified above. Displacement was caused by fighting between government forces and armed youth in surrounding villages since 3 January 2017 near Riimenze 30 kilometers from Yambio town.

### OPERATIONS

### Central Equatoria

## Achievements and impact



## Achievements and impact

### Central Equatoria

- In Juba, UNHCR and its partner Humanitarian Development Consortium (HDC) distributed kitchen sets to 656 individuals (164 households) as a supplement of NFI Cluster assistance to persons with special needs living at the Mahad IDP collective site, the distribution was conducted following the fire incidence on 19 February. Cumulatively, 936 fire victims have been assisted between February and March 2017.

### Upper Nile

- In Malakal town, UNHCR and its partner HDC supported 560 Persons with Special Needs (PSNs) with non-food items including plastic sheets, sleeping mats, blankets and jerry cans at SOS (Save Our Soul) center.

- In Wau Shilluk, UNHCR in coordination with the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) assisted additional 20 Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs) with NFIs that included plastic sheets, sleeping mats, blankets and jerry cans.

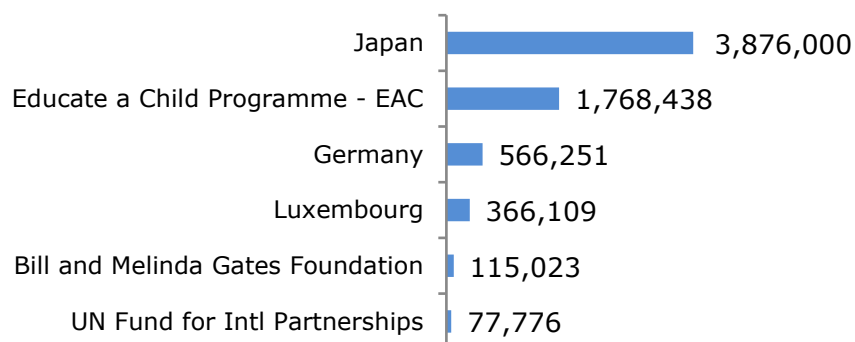
#### **Western Bahr el Ghazal**

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## **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to USD 6,771,188 for the financial year 2017 as of 15 March. UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR

programs with earmarked and broadly earmarked funds. UNHCR's comprehensive needs for 2017 amount to \$172 million, with most priority needs of \$125 million.



#### Contacts:

Juliette Stevenson, Reporting Officer, [stenso@unhcr.org](mailto:stenso@unhcr.org), Cell: +211 0922 700 550

Richard Ruati, Assistant External Relations Officer, [ruati@unhcr.org](mailto:ruati@unhcr.org), Cell: +211 927 725 515

#### Links:

[South Sudan Situation Regional Portal](#)

[UNHCR South Sudan Facebook page](#)

[Einstein scholarships bring hope to refugee students in South Sudan](#)

[UNHCR News Story: New 'Protection Desks' give expert help to South Sudan's vulnerable](#)

[UNHCR News Story: 100,000 fearful civilians trapped in South Sudan town](#)

[UNHCR Briefing Note: UNHCR sounds warning alarms over situation in South Sudan's Yei](#)