

Ethiopia: 2018 Mid Year Report SOUTH SUDAN REGIONAL RRP

January - June 2018



445,481

SOUTH SUDANESE
REFUGEES HOSTED IN
ETHIOPIA (30 JUNE 2018)

US\$ 342.1 M

REQUIRED IN ETHIOPIA
IN 2018

11%

FUNDING RECEIVED
(17 JULY 2018)

24

RRP PARTNERS IN
ETHIOPIA
IN 2018

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The South Sudanese remain the largest refugee population in Ethiopia, totaling 445,481 persons at the end of June 2018. Continued violence in Upper Nile, Jonglei and Unity states resulted in 19,195 South Sudanese arrivals in the first half of 2018. The Ethiopian Government has maintained an open door asylum policy and granted prima facie refugee status to South Sudanese refugees.

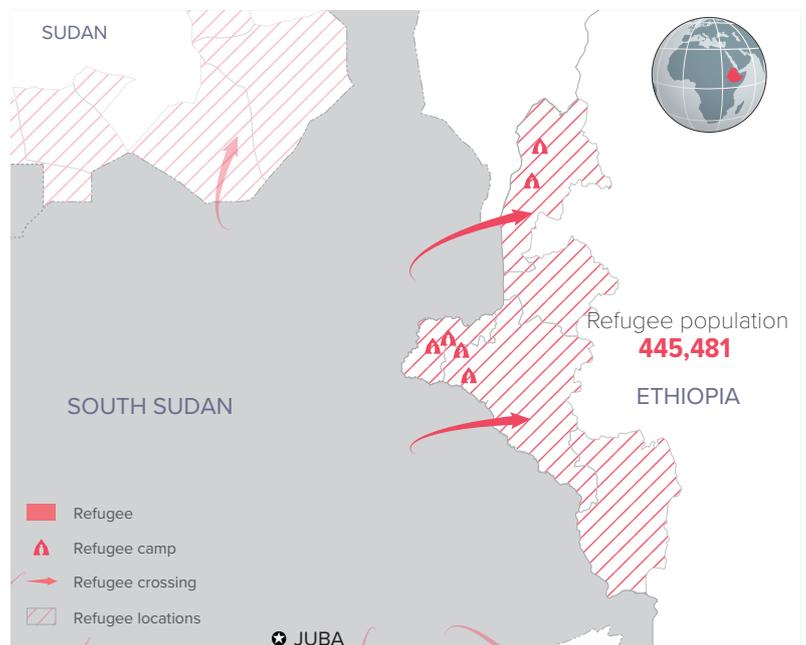
Despite the signing of the Khartoum Declaration of Agreement between the Parties of the Conflict in South Sudan, instances of continued fighting and violence are expected to continue as some groups did not sign the agreement and also as the new power sharing arrangement remains to be tested on the ground in South Sudan. A similar deal in July 2016 failed and triggered a large scale South Sudanese refugee outflow. As such continued arrivals are foreseen, resulting in a potential South Sudanese refugee population of 485,000 in Ethiopia by the end of 2018.

Gambella regional state is currently hosting the vast majority of South Sudanese refugees totaling 425,468, of which 99,651 are residing in Nguenyiel refugee camp. Services are stretched in the camp due to the increasing population and some refugees have to walk up to 7km to reach the food distribution point. Additional financial investment is required to expand sector services in the newly established zone D. To ease pressure on Gambella, relocation of new arrivals in Gambella Region to Gure Shembola Camp in the Benishangul Gumuz Region remains the preferred option of the Government of Ethiopia for the accommodation of South Sudanese refugees. The most recent relocation convoy took place in June, with 209 individuals transported and arriving in safety and dignity. Information campaigns are conducted in Pamdong Reception Centre, Gambella, regarding the relocation process to Gure Shembola Camp.

RRP partners continue to facilitate the relocation of new arrivals to Gure Shombola camp as the only option currently available. Advocacy with the Government continues to expand existing camps in Gambella or to identify sites for new camps.

The South Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP) in Ethiopia outlining the collective response of 24 partner organizations, has called for USD 342.1 million to cater to the prioritized humanitarian needs of South Sudanese refugees. By end of June the appeal was only 11% funded.

Fundamental gaps remain across all sectors due to critical resource constraints, including in Health, Shelter, Education and Livelihoods. The ongoing reduction in the food ration remains a concern, in particular given the limited options currently available for families to supplement their nutritional intake. While non food items are distributed to all refugees upon arrival, funding constraints have limited the replenishment of items.



Protection

 **1,848**
South Sudanese children
issued with **birth certificates**
in Gambella since October 2017

56 child protection committees
and **47** community
structures
for **youth**
established  

**Lack of safe
houses for
SGBV survivors**
   

Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) and RRP partners launched the Registration Multi Year Plan of Action for South Sudanese refugees, which includes a comprehensive Level 3 registration exercise in all the camps and enrolment in the Biometric Identity Management System (BIMS); this is in addition to the initial registration upon arrival. As of 30 June, a total of 56,593 South Sudanese refugees are now enrolled in the new identity management system, which captures essential information on refugees. As a result, all refugee families receive a proof of registration document, while every refugee aged 14 and above receives a refugee / asylum-seeker identity card on the same day of registration. When all refugees residing in Ethiopia are part of BIMS, the enhanced information database will enable a more targeted approach to service delivery and durable solutions, in line with the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF).

In line with the South Sudan Regional Framework for the Protection of Refugee Children there have been investments in strengthening the child protection case management and capacity of refugee social workers and child protection staff from all camps. Child protection mainstreaming is a strategic priority which has been enhanced in the reporting period through capacity building of protection partners, which do not possess child protection expertise (non-child protection partners), which have been extended to 27 partners including government bureaux in the Gambella region. A total of 1,285 referrals were received from non-child protection partners. Furthermore, 2,190 best interest assessments and 7 best interest determinations were conducted. 56 child protection committees and 47 community structures, for youth were established focusing on peacebuilding, conflict resolution, entrepreneurship and life skills, and also targeting adolescent girls. While progress is being made on issuing birth certificates through the refugee vital events registration project (RVER) lack of resources and capacity for RVER to cater for the large refugee population in Gambella are challenging the operation.

150 sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) cases were reported to partners directly or through the established referral mechanisms and all survivors were provided with confidential psychosocial support, as well as other appropriate services. Lack of safe houses remains a challenge when survivors need immediate protection from physical violence or forced marriage. Challenges around safe access to energy compel women and girls to collect firewood around the camps, increasing their risks to SGBV. SGBV prevention activities took place in various forms including through formation of community based groups involving women and girls, as well as men and boys. Strategic planning to bring in more men and boys in both prevention and response needs to be developed. Psychosocial activities and support was provided in women and girl friendly spaces.

Education

70,910
South Sudanese
students enrolled in
primary education, an
increase from 62,015
compared to last year



 **3,883**
refugees
enrolled in
secondary school, an increase
of 2,551 compared to last year

 Only **11%**
enrollment
at secondary
school level, including low
attendance of girls

With the support of the Ministry of Education and RRP partners primary and secondary schools are being expanded through the construction of additional classrooms in the existing schools and/or by establishing new ones.

In the first half of 2018, preparatory work has been finalised for 100 new permanent primary schools facilities, a new secondary school for both host community and refugees; and two annexes to primary schools that will provide lower secondary education. Construction is anticipated to start in the second half of 2018. Still however, gaps remain in the availability of both primary and secondary education, particularly as the population continues to grow.

Other gaps in the provision of education in Gambella include a lack of available classroom space and trained teachers, and classroom materials, including books, scientific implements, and stationary materials.

Food

354,754

 South Sudanese refugees received monthly in-kind food assistance

One additional **food distribution point** constructed in 2018



16% of planned **food commodities** could not be purchased due to funding shortages



80 percent of the South Sudanese refugee population received food food assistance so far in 2018 as some 354,754 refugees presented themselves to collect rations on a monthly basis during this period.

Due to funding shortages from January to April, refugees in Gambella were receiving 1,773 kcal (84%) out of the standard 2,100 Kcal. From May to June, further ration cuts were implemented with only 1,272 kcal (60%) distributed. Delays in food distribution were experienced in Nguenyiel camp due to inadequate numbers of final distribution points, but the construction of an additional distribution point will improve effectiveness of the distribution process. To improve household food security, backyard gardens have been established in most of the camps and RRP partner provides electronic fresh food vouchers to households with children 6-23 months and pregnant and lactating women in some camps.

Health & Nutrition

264,831

consultations provided (2% for the host community)



 3,112 children with **SAM** and 5,864 children with **MAM** received treatment



Ratio of **health facilities to population** is approximately **1:20,000** against a standard of **1:10,000**

Health services were provided at 20 facilities and the health service utilisation rate was 1.4 visits per person per year, which is within the standard. Crude mortality and under-five mortality rates were less than 0.1 per 1,000 per month. Measles vaccination coverage and vitamin A supplementation for children under five reached the target of 95%. In addition to routine health services, emergency health services including vaccination and nutrition screening and referral were provided for newly arrived refugees. A total of 11,406 children under 15 years received polio vaccine and 10,341 received measles vaccine on arrival.

Nutrition screening and treatment was provided with a recovery rate of 87.5% for children with SAM and 89.8% for those with MAM. Standardised nutrition surveys were conducted in the second quarter, the preliminary results indicate an overall general improvement in the situation with a preliminary weighted Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) 13.3% and Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) of 2.5%.

In order to improve reliability and efficiency of health data collection, training was conducted on the use of the tablet-based mobile Health Information System (HIS) targeting a total of 135 health and nutrition staff. Tablets for this purpose were distributed at health facilities. 39 midwives were trained on basic emergency obstetric and neonatal care (BEmONC) and 347 Community Outreach Agents received training on health, nutrition and hygiene

topics. Key gaps and challenges related to underfunding include an insufficient number of health facilities relative to the population size; lack of blood in the blood bank for emergency blood transfusion, as well as limited capacity of referral facilities for provision of secondary and tertiary health care.

Livelihoods & Environment

79%

of 86,389
refugees
engaged in
vegetable production



74% of refugees

who completed small
business training set up
petty business/trade in
the camps

**Continued reliance
on firewood for
energy access
by refugees**



A monthly interagency livelihood working group was activated for partners in Gambella to review activities and share good practices. The WG harmonised criteria for selection of beneficiaries. Refugees were supported through various livelihood projects, including crop production, animal husbandry, small scale business and vocational training. Out of the targeted population (86,389 refugees), 78.8 percent were provided with vegetable seeds; 83.4 percent issued with agricultural tools; 65 percent issued with goats and chickens. 70 percent of refugees that completed vocational training received startup kits. For small scale business training, 74 percent of the beneficiaries managed to set up petty businesses, including retail shops, restaurants, grocery shops, tailoring shops, barber shops and hair dressing.

The interagency response in the livelihoods sector remains low. Projects remain small-scale and geared towards complementing food security, but are not sufficient to ensure self-reliance. Backyard gardening which is the main activity in crop production is seasonal and is conducted on limited pieces of land within the camps. Access to land remains problematic for refugees. It is expected that adoption of the new Refugee Proclamation will pave the way for more livelihood opportunities.

For energy, all households rely on firewood collection and women and children carry the full burden of this activity. 72,618 households (86 percent) in Gambella are headed by refugee women. There is high exposure to SGBV, and health risks, including respiratory infections. Children who collect firewood cannot attend school. Competition for resources is high among refugees and host communities. This impacts local ecosystems and hinders peaceful co-existence. Currently, provision of alternative energy for cooking is lacking. The coverage of alternative energy for lighting is about 75 percent while it is only 10 percent for solar lanterns/lamps.

Shelter & NFIs



1,000 emergency
shelters constructed for
new arrivals in
Nguenyiel
refugee camp



**62% of the refugee
households have
no access to
semi-permanent
shelter**

The inter-agency response for shelter saw an increase in the transitional shelter coverage, however by end of June still only 38 percent of refugee households (31,541) in Gambella have durable transitional shelters. The focus for transitional shelter construction is on Pugnido, Dimma and Nguenyiel refugee camps. Nguenyiel refugee camp has the greatest need for transitional shelter construction as about 15,500 refugees relocated to this camp between January and June of this year. The shelter gap in Nguenyiel camp at the moment stands at 73 percent. Therefore, refugee households in this camp are either living in emergency shelter, which was allocated to each household on arrival, or sharing a house with other relatives.

To increase transitional shelter coverage it is expected that a total number of 3,700 transitional shelter units will be constructed by end of the year. This, however, is only 4 percent of the transitional shelter requirement for the current population in the camps in Gambella. In addition to transitional shelter needs, there is also the need for communal structures such as food distribution centers.

During the first half of the year, 25,524 households were provided with non-food items including blankets, kitchen sets, jerry-cans, sleeping mats, and 19,869 women were provided with dignity kits. While non-food items are distributed to all refugees upon arrival, funding constraints have limited the allocation of replenishment items.



**Over 6 million
litres of water
is supplied
daily**

1,811 
family latrines
constructed

Access to family latrines is
low at 31% against the
standard of 85% 

WASH activities continue to address the needs of refugees with ongoing upgrading and maintenance of water supply infrastructure which has maintained an average safe supply of 16.6 liters per person per day, below the 20 litre per person per day Sphere standard.

The number of latrines in terms of both household latrines and family shared latrines has increased with the construction of 1,811 household latrines in 2018. Still, the household latrine coverage falls short of the standard of 85 percent (only 31 percent of households have a latrine). Crude latrine access (considering both household latrines and family shared latrines) stands at 14 persons per latrine, which meets the minimum standard of 20 persons per latrine. Hygiene promotion activities continued in all refugee camps to promote best practices on use of WASH facilities to prevent diseases.

The utility model for the Itang Water Supply Project in Gambella has been progressing. This project seeks to integrate water supply for the host community and three camps. The focus has been on upgrading the infrastructure and capacity building of utility staff in preparation for transition and hand over of full management by the utility planned for the second semester of 2018.

Major challenges are the high cost of water supply systems due to long distances from water source to camps and suboptimal household latrine coverage due to funding shortfalls.

RRP PARTNERS

- Action Against Hunger
- Concern WorldWide
- Danish Church Aid
- Danish Refugee Council
- Food and Agriculture Organisation
- GOAL
- HelpAge International
- International Medical Corps
- International Organisation for Migration
- International Rescue Committee
- Lutheran World Federation
- Maternity Foundation
- Mothers And Children Multisectoral Development Organization
- Norwegian Refugee Council
- OXFAM
- Partner for Refugee Service
- Plan International
- Rehabilitation and Development Organization
- Save the Children International
- United Nations Children's Fund
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- World Food Programme
- World Vision International
- ZOA International

CRRF

Ethiopia made nine pledges to comprehensively respond to refugee needs and is formulating a National Comprehensive Refugee Response Strategy (NCRRS). The Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) can be regarded as a vehicle to accompany the implementation of these nine pledges that are focused on a more sustainable response that goes beyond care and maintenance of refugees to promote their self-reliance. This approach combines wider support to host communities, fostering peaceful coexistence and greater inclusion of refugees in national development plans. The formal launch of the CRRF took place in November 2017.

The Government has prepared a roadmap detailing the implementation of each pledge, outlining key opportunities and partnerships that must be put in place, and is incorporating some of the pledges into a revised Refugee Proclamation due to be in force in the second half of 2018. Additional legislative reforms to Proclamation 760/2012 permitting civil documentation for refugees was passed in July 2017, and the first birth certificates for refugees were issued in October 2017.

A governance structure has been put in place, which includes a Steering Committee comprising of Line Ministries, federal agencies, development actors, NGOs and donors, to drive the practical implementation of the pledges. The structure also includes six Technical Committees focusing on thematic areas grouped around the pledges: Out of Camp, Education, Work and Livelihoods, Documentation, Basic and Social Service, and Local Integration. Four consultative technical committee workshops have been held since the beginning of the year, with a workshop on Out of Camp Policy (OCP) and Local Integration remaining.

Following five regional CRRF launches, tangible gains have been made in coordination with federal line ministries and Bureaus of Finance and Economic Development (BoFEDs). A focus on area-based planning, data analysis and the review of prioritised interventions is currently informing field-based CRRF implementation plans. In May, the Gambella Regional Government launched the CRRF, followed by awareness raising activities focused on 549 government officials and community representatives. In response to local conflict in and around refugee communities in Gambella, the Administration for Refugees and Returnee Affairs (ARRA), UNHCR, UNDP, UNWOMEN and other partners are initiating a project to improve community security, protection and access to justice in four districts and seven camps, in particular building capacities of local institutions.

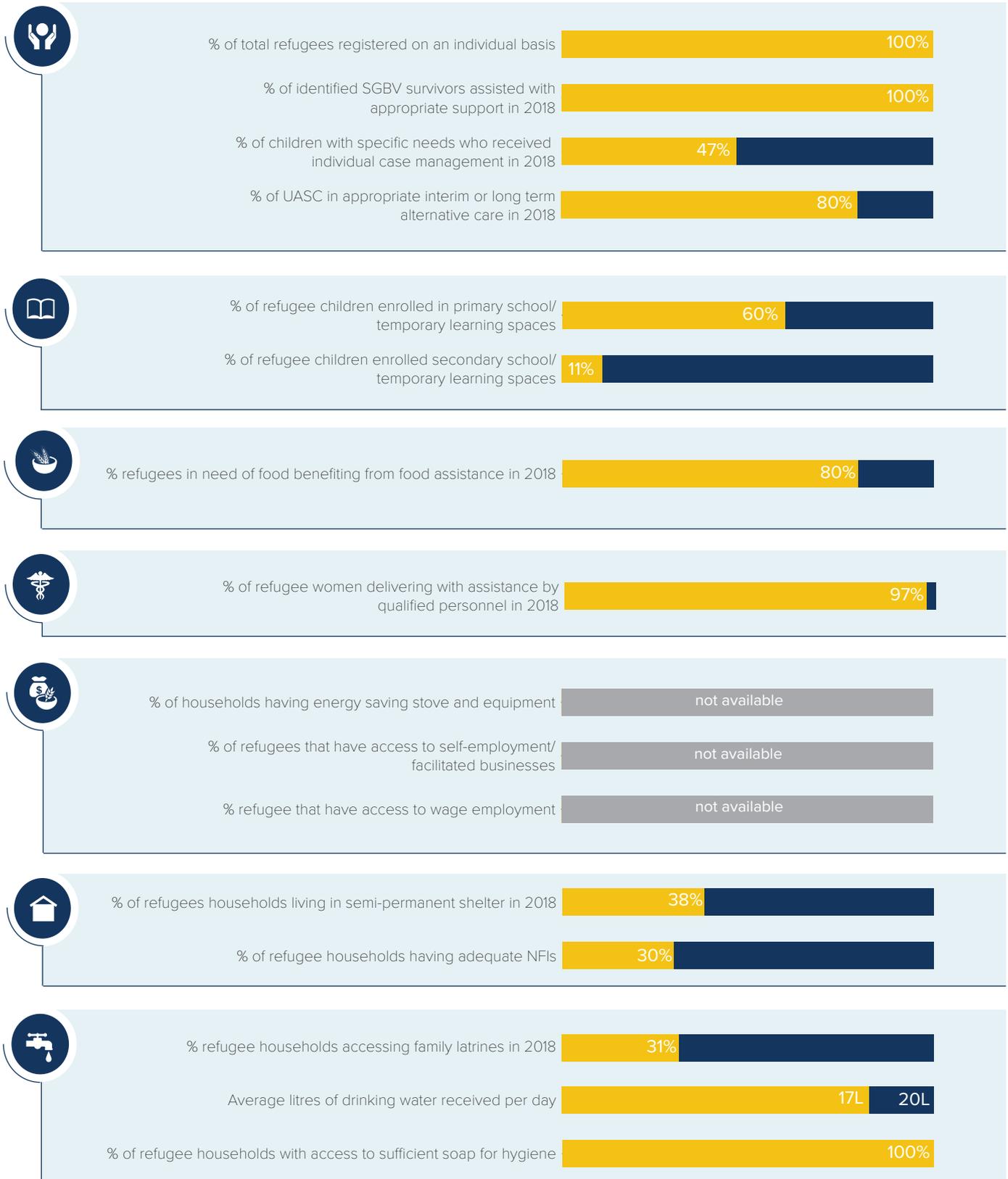
FOR MORE INFORMATION

South Sudan Data Portal - <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/southsudan>

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