



SOUTH SUDAN Regional Refugee Response Plan 2020 Year End Report

REGIONAL SITUATION OVERVIEW

With 2020 marking the seventh year of the **South Sudan** conflict, this protracted situation remains the largest refugee crisis in Africa with close to 2.2 million South Sudanese refugees living in the **Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan** and **Uganda**. The 2020 South Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP) included an appeal for almost USD 1.43 billion for 93 partners to meet the critical needs of South Sudanese refugees in these five countries.

Despite the signature of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) by the warring parties in September 2018 and the formation of the Transitional Government of National Unity in February 2020, conditions have not yet been conducive for promoting or facilitating voluntary repatriation in safety and dignity to **South Sudan** due to ongoing pockets of armed conflict and human rights violations.

The protracted conflict, environmental disasters and outbreaks of sub-national intercommunal violence have left 1.6 million South Sudanese internally displaced across all 78 counties. The situation has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, limitations on humanitarian access, and severe flooding leading to additional forced displacement in 2020. By the end of the year, rising food insecurity was pushing some 7 million people toward famine conditions in **South Sudan**.

In recognition of the longer-term peacebuilding, resilience and early recovery needs of South Sudanese and Sudanese refugees, IDPs and returnees, **South Sudan** and **Sudan** launched a Solutions Initiative under the IGAD Support Platform with the support of UNHCR at the end of 2020. This initiative complemented the RRRP by seeking to mobilize investment in longer terms development needs to make returns and other solutions sustainable.

2020 RESPONSE IN NUMBERS

2.17 M

SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEES
AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2020



USD 361.2M

FUNDING RECEIVED BY DEC 2020,
REPRESENTING 25% OF REQUIREMENTS

39,640

NEW SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEE
ARRIVALS IN 2020

95

UN, INTERNATIONAL NGO AND
NATIONAL NGO PARTNERS INVOLVED

Photo Caption:

South Sudanese refugees and host community in Sudan receive flood assistance. © UNHCR/Roland Schönbauer

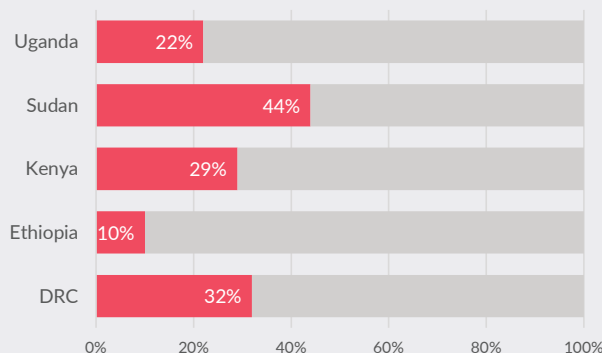
USD 361.2 M

FUNDING RECEIVED FROM

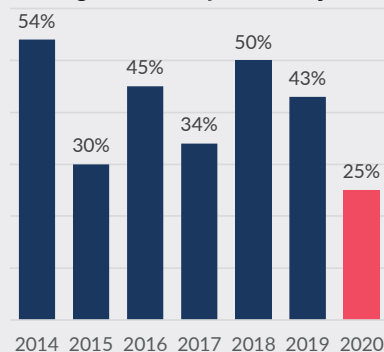
USD 1.3B

FUNDING REQUESTED IN 2020

Funding level by response country



Funding status in previous years



REGIONAL SITUATION OVERVIEW (CONTINUED)

Despite soaring needs, the South Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan was among the most critically underfunded refugee situations globally in 2020, receiving only 25 per cent of the resources required (please see the [Refugee Funding Tracker](#) for more information). In 2020, funds were reprioritized to cover critical preparedness activities, including COVID-19 related training for health care workers, awareness raising campaigns, distribution of medical equipment and procurement of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for frontline workers.

This led to acute gaps in other refugee response efforts, including deficient investment in WASH infrastructure, insufficient livelihoods activities and lack of access to basic medical services in refugee households during the COVID-19 pandemic. Underfunding also led to severe cuts to food rations and refugees were unable to complement their livelihoods, as the open markets were closed or heavily curtailed in an effort to contain the pandemic.

Over 70 per cent of self-organized refugee returnees cited drastic food ration cuts in countries of asylum among the reasons that prompted their return to their country, often ending up in IDP sites or experiencing further instances of forced displacement across borders.

More than 66,000 refugee children have been registered as unaccompanied or separated from their parents or usual caregivers.

Notwithstanding these challenges, RRP partners promoted an inclusive protection and solutions approach by advocating for refugee integration into national systems, such as education, health, environment, livelihoods, child protection and birth registration. Despite the COVID-19 related challenges, the **DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan** and **Uganda** developed refugee responses in line with the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) articulating prioritized multi-stakeholder responses.

In follow-up to its GRF pledges on local integration, the Government of **Ethiopia** initiated the identification and issuance of resident permits to 132 South Sudanese refugees in the Benishangul-Gumuz Region.

RRP partners in **Sudan** made significant efforts to include refugees in livelihood initiatives to increase their self-reliance and provide for their most basic needs.

In **Uganda** efforts continued to support refugee inclusion, resilience and self-reliance of refugees and host communities, and expand solutions. In 2020, refugees were integrated in Uganda’s National Development Plan. At sectoral level, costed comprehensive sector response plans were developed and are being implemented under the leadership of Government Ministries for education, health, water and environment and jobs and livelihoods. Over 70% of health facilities in refugee-hosting districts were accredited by the Ministry of Health, with the aim to reach 90% by the end of 2022 as outlined in Uganda’s GCR/CRRF National Plan of Action. The revised Country Refugee Response Plan, launched in July 2020, and which includes sector strategies and budgets to address the humanitarian needs of South Sudanese refugees, also serves as a transition plan towards sustainable refugee response programming in Uganda. It makes a closer link to existing government plans for refugee and host communities, moving towards sustainable service provision.

SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEE POPULATION TRENDS

In 2020, despite COVID-19 restrictions imposed by asylum states at border entry points, some 40,000 South Sudanese refugees obtained asylum in neighbouring countries. Meanwhile, 120,000 South Sudanese refugee returnees were verified to have spontaneously returned to **South Sudan** from various countries of asylum of the region.

DRC: As of 31 December 2020, a total of 54,755 South Sudanese refugees were staying in the DRC, amongst whom 63 % were children. In 2020, about 836 new asylum-seekers arrived from South Sudan to Haut-Uele and Ituri provinces.

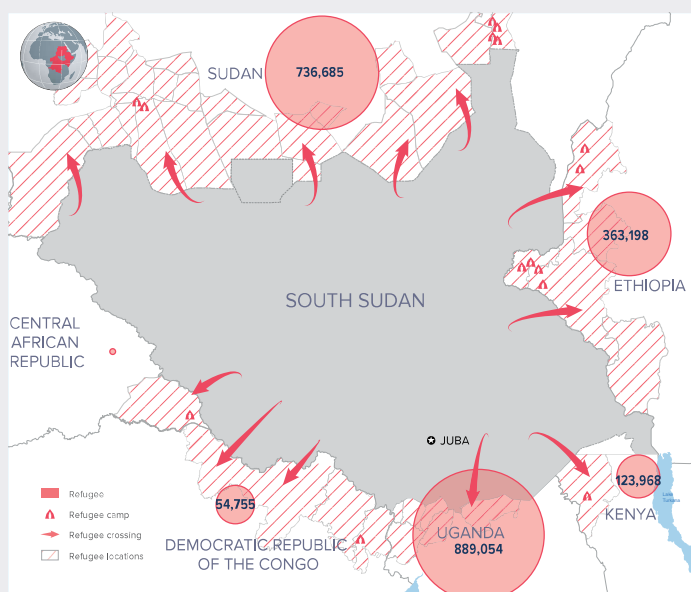
Ethiopia: By the end of December 2020, Ethiopia hosted 365,422 South Sudanese refugees. 11,699 new asylum-seekers were registered in 2020, in addition to individuals who spontaneously returned to South Sudan and were subject to further cross-border displacement. As of December 2020, a total of 5,183 South Sudanese refugees were tested for COVID-19, and 231 confirmed cases (171 Gambella and 60 Assosa) were identified and transferred to designated treatment centers. Two deaths were registered, translating to a fatality rate of 0.86 percent.

In March 2020, the Government of **Ethiopia** decided to close Pamdong Transit Centre in Gambella Region due to the pandemic. Pagak Reception Centre was re-opened in May 2020 and hosted over 15,000 individuals by the end of the year. Limited accommodation and overstretched services for the increasing number of new asylum-seekers raised public health concerns. Despite the challenges, substantial efforts were made to ensure the delivery of assistance in Pagak including rehabilitation of shelters and other infrastructure, provision of WASH, health, nutrition and protection services. New arrivals were relocated to other sites in the Gambella region, with 5,300 South Sudanese refugees relocated from Pagak Reception Centre to Nguenyiel Refugee Camp by the end of 2020.

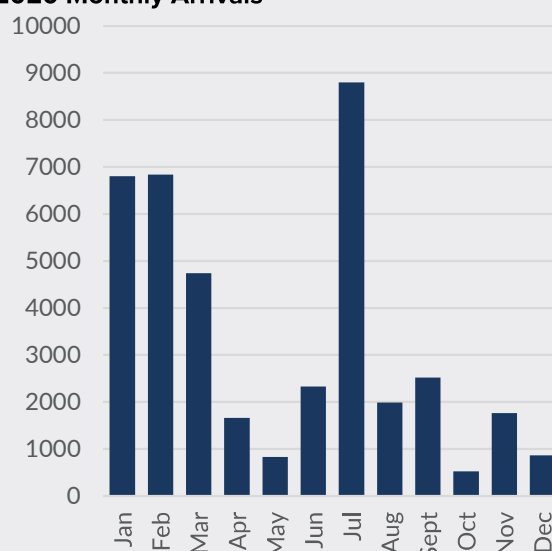
Kenya: As of the end of 2020, Kenya hosted 123,921 South Sudanese refugees. 4,474 new arrivals from South Sudan and 1,115 newborns were registered in 2020. While other border crossings reopened in August 2020, Nadapal, the main border crossing with South Sudan, remained closed. Only the few asylum-seekers who succeeded in crossing the border irregularly, arrived in the camp. 114 South Sudanese refugees were submitted for resettlement and 19 departed to their new asylum countries. 138 refugees were assisted to access complementary pathways. A total of 4,339 COVID-19 PCR tests were undertaken with 341 refugees diagnosed to have COVID-19. There were 331 recoveries with 10 reported deaths.

Sudan: As of 31 December 2020, a total of 736,685 South Sudanese refugees were registered in Sudan. During the year, 18,905 refugees newly arrived in Sudan.

Uganda: Despite the border closures, South Sudanese refugees continued crossing to Uganda through unofficial entry points. By the end of 2020, Uganda hosted 889,054 refugees from South Sudan. The vast majority of South Sudanese refugees lived in settlements in northern Uganda, in the districts of Yumbe (26%), Adjumani (24%), Arua (21%), Obongi (14%), Kiryandongo (8%), and Lamwo (6%), with smaller numbers in Kikuube district (0.4 per cent), and urban Kampala (0.5 per cent).



2020 Monthly Arrivals



**87%**

South Sudanese refugees **individually registered**, against a target of 88% in 2020

**2,888**

identified **SGBV survivors assisted with appropriate support** (97%, against a target of 98%), up from 90% in 2019

**40,698**

South Sudanese refugee children with specific needs received **individual case management** (48%, against a target of 70%) maintaining 48% achievement in 2019

**37,836**

refugee children **enrolled in Early Childhood Development programmes** (31%, against a target of 30%)

**370,876**

refugee children **enrolled in primary school** (63%, against a target of 95%) down from 65% in 2019

**36,005**

refugee children **enrolled in secondary school** (15%, down from 18% in 2019))

**1.7 million**

South Sudanese refugees received **food assistance** (94% of refugees targeted for food assistance), though only 540,000 (30%) received the full recommended ration

**31,506**

refugee women **delivered babies with assistance** from qualified health personnel (84%, down from 90% in 2019)

PROTECTION

In 2020, RRP partners had to reallocate resources to meet the urgent needs related to the pandemic. However, measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, inadequate humanitarian funding, food ration cuts coupled with limited livelihood opportunities further exacerbated inequalities and heightened protection risks for refugees. An increase in high-risk coping mechanisms among refugees and asylum seekers were reported in 2020, including child marriage and pregnancy, survival sex and theft. Incidents of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and suicides also increased since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Against this background, RRP partners increased efforts to strengthen community-based protection in the settlements through empowerment of refugees, provision of material support, tailored provision of health services, trainings and sensitization. Complaints and feedback mechanisms, child protection as well as GBV prevention and response were also strengthened through community-based approaches and remote case management in all asylum countries..

In the **DRC**, a total of 1,894 South Sudanese refugees (836 new arrivals and 1,058 births) were registered in 2020. Through individual registration a high number of unaccompanied or separated children (UASC) were identified. RRP partners established child protection systems, reactivated the Best Interest Determination mechanism in Aru and in Faradje for UASC, and supported community mechanisms, including formalizing foster care arrangements and ensured regular monitoring. 289 refugee children-at-risk (139 girls and 150 boys), including UASC, children living with disabilities, children survivors of GBV, and children living with chronic diseases received psychosocial support, and assistance through foster placements, family visits, and NFIs. During 2020, a total of 161 GBV cases were reported, including rape incidents of children. All GBV survivors received psychosocial support; and 41 survivors participated in income-generating activities. The high level of impunity was the main challenge in the GBV prevention and response. In order to address this problem, RRP partners recruited a law firm to assist refugees with legal proceedings and to organize mobile courts to bring justice closer to persons of concern.

In **Ethiopia**, prima facie refugee status was granted to new arrivals from South Sudan with 8,220 individuals screened in as refugees, of whom 5,073 were relocated from Pagak Reception Centre to Nguennyiel Camp by the end of 2020. Refugee movement remained restricted, with strict implementation of the encampment policy hindering engagement in livelihoods.

In 2020, RRP partners identified 12,708 children-at-risk (including 5,165 UASC and children suffering abuses, neglect, child labour or child marriage) who were assisted

through case management and referral services. 1,033 children were placed in alternative care arrangements and/or assisted through inter-camp family reunification processes. A total of 336 GBV incidents were reported. All GBV survivors received support. Toll-free helplines were established to receive community complaints on fraud, sexual exploitation and abuse, and for remote GBV case management. Due to the pandemic, mobile court operations in Gambella only resumed in October 2020, with a total of 240 individuals receiving legal remedies. Due to inadequate funding, RRP partners were not able to equip the One Stop Centres that provide safe spaces to GBV survivors.

In **Kenya**, 9,494 UASC were hosted in Kakuma and Kalobeyei settlements, out of whom 8,651 were receiving appropriate temporary or long-term alternate care (foster and kinship care). In 2020, RRP partners assisted 1,522 children (including UASC, children with disabilities, GBV child survivors and other children at risk). The main risks to children included child abuse, child marriage, teenage pregnancy, child neglect and sexual violence against children.

208 GBV incidents with South Sudanese survivors were reported. All cases received psychosocial support and appropriate referrals were made. Remote case management procedures were implemented through phone assessments and follow-ups.

In **Sudan**, a total of 15,481 children with specific needs were identified of which 9,954 were provided with assistance including referrals to appropriate services. Some 88% of South Sudanese UASC received appropriate alternative care. All GBV survivors were offered multi-sectorial assistance including health, legal aid and psycho-social support. However, GBV incidents remained largely underreported for fear of retaliation, community leaders imposing traditional justice mechanisms, weak rule of law and difficult access to services in remote and underserved locations. A major gap in the response was the lack of sufficient and capacitated child protection and GBV technical staff.

Despite the challenges in the context of the pandemic, refugee registration continued in 2020, to protect against arbitrary arrest, detention and refoulement, to identify persons with specific protection needs and to refer them to appropriate specialized services. By the end of December 2020, 61% South Sudanese refugees (451,801 individuals) were individually registered and 5 per cent were registered on household level.

Uganda continued to implement progressive refugee policies for asylum-seekers and refugees present in the country, including freedom of movement, right to work, establish a business, access Government services such as education and healthcare, and obtain land for housing and cultivation (for the majority of South Sudanese refugees who live in the settlements).

The COVID-19 pandemic combined with food ration cuts affected and worsened the well-being of refugees in **Uganda** and had a serious impact on their protection and livelihoods. In 2020, the number of attempted and completed suicides, in particular in the West Nile, where the majority of the South Sudanese refugees are settled, more than doubled from 151 reported attempted and completed suicides in 2019 to 346 in 2020. The number of GBV cases across Uganda's settlements also increased by an average of 55%. Teenage pregnancies increased, and children were more frequently exposed to GBV, child labour, family separation and severe forms of child neglect. The pandemic also exacerbated tensions among and between communities and several violent incidents erupted in 2020 in settlements in the West Nile.

Against this background, RRP partners intensified efforts to strengthen community-based protection in the settlements through empowerment of refugees, provision of material support, trainings and sensitization. Complaints and feedback mechanisms, child protection as well as GBV prevention and response were also strengthened through community-based approaches and remote case management. RRP partners identified and registered 22,535 South Sudanese refugee children for case management services out of a total of 44,265 South Sudanese refugee children identified at risk, including UASC. 69,147 South Sudanese children participated in a variety of community-based activities focusing on strengthening their resilience and capacities to overcome protection concerns.

RRP partners provided psychosocial or psychological services to 63,829 South Sudanese refugees in 2020. Innovative approaches in response to the COVID-19 situation included the establishment of a multi-partner hotline for tele-psychological services through which counselling was provided to 1,300 cases. 11,460 complaints by South Sudanese refugees were addressed through effective feedback mechanisms. Access to justice was also strengthened through support of legal aid clinics, mobile court sessions and capacity building of law enforcement and judiciary. 10,622 South Sudanese refugees received legal assistance by RRP partners, and 22,928 were sensitized about Ugandan and Refugee law.

19 year old Sophie is a senior 4 student at Highland Secondary School in Uganda. Sophie is one of the over 230,000 South Sudanese refugees living in Bidibidi settlement. © UNHCR/ Jjumba Martin



EDUCATION

The COVID-19 outbreak and subsequent school closures from March 2020 onwards in **DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan** and **Uganda** did not only result in loss of learning, but also led to increased protection risks, exacerbating vulnerabilities and persistent barriers to education, with girls disproportionately affected.

In the **DRC**, RRP partners contributed to increasing access to education for South Sudanese refugees and the host community population through the provision of material support and training of teachers at primary schools in Ituri and Haut Uele Provinces. A secondary school with 6 classrooms and 2 blocks of latrines was built and handed over to the DRC authorities in Bele.

In **Ethiopia**, the pandemic affected learning for over 100,000 school-aged children for more than eight months. RRP partners mobilized emergency funds for the procurement and distribution of 5,053 solar radio-sets, development of educational content and preparation of self-study materials to support distance learning for Grade 1-8 students. Awareness campaigns on COVID-19 safety measures were conducted through engaging teachers, PTA members, school-based clubs and community structures. School feeding programs were suspended with the closure of schools affecting the nutritional wellbeing of children at the primary level.

In **Sudan**, over 55,000 South Sudanese refugee students were supported with various school retention activities including provision of school supplies, uniforms and support for examinations. Many refugee children were unable to access the distance learning platforms created by the Federal Ministry of Education for revision lessons. Most families did not have the devices needed, such as TVs, radios and computers.

In **Kenya**, the closure of schools disrupted learning for 50,345 South Sudanese refugees in Kakuma and Kalobeyi. To ensure continuity of learning, RRP partners in coordination with the Ministry of Education developed an inter-agency education response plan including a 5-hour daily lesson broadcast, distribution of over 9,000 radios to support student connection to the broadcast, provision of data bundles to teachers and higher education students and distribution of 69,233 textbooks to support home learning. An estimated 64% of children enrolled prior to the pandemic were reached and supported through the various learning continuity interventions. Despite the efforts by RRP partners to support learning continuity with a mix of online and offline education, access to connectivity, digital devices and

electricity remained key obstacles for refugee children. Increased incidents of teen pregnancies, child marriages, sexual and drug abuse was reported with affected children, especially girls, unlikely to return to school upon re-opening. Social distancing and other restrictive measures also presented practical challenges to the effective continuity of learning. In preparation of safe school re-opening, schools were supplied with face masks, handwashing stations were installed in each of the camps 39 schools, additional 114 new classrooms constructed, 1,742 desks distributed, and 170 latrines established.

In **Uganda**, RRP partners deployed resources to support the Government COVID-19 Response Plan, which is inclusive of refugees, to ensure continuity of learning through home learning materials, radio lessons and digital options, including tablets. RRP partners supported remote learning through provision of radios and scholastic materials, developed by the National Curriculum Development Centre, including for refugee children in settlements hosting South Sudanese refugees. Over 3,000 teachers involved in learning activities for South Sudanese refugee children were trained. RRP partners promoted home-based education and child protection by empowering parents to develop social, emotional, cognitive and physical wellbeing skills of their children. Partners involved in mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) provided psycho-social support to learners while continuing individual home visits.

Whereas the attendance of school-aged children in primary education was high in all asylum countries (9,125 refugee children- 90% in the **DRC**; 75,614 refugee children -74% in **Ethiopia**, 34,479 refugee children - 104% in **Kenya**, 63,609 refugee children - 31% in **Sudan** and 188,049 refugee children - 80% in **Uganda**), enrolment in secondary education was significantly lower (462 secondary school refugee children - 9% in **DRC**, 6,475 refugee children - 20% in **Ethiopia**, 8,317 secondary school refugee children - 48% in **Kenya**, 3,036 secondary refugee children - 4% in **Sudan** and 17,715 secondary refugee children - 15% in **Uganda**). In **Ethiopia**, 1,122 refugee students were enrolled at tertiary level, with 616 graduating in 2020. Overall, due to overcrowded classes, inadequate WASH conditions and lack of science laboratories and libraries, the students' learning opportunities remained limited.

FOOD

The food ration cuts in the **DRC** (50% reduction of the cash-for-food assistance for refugees), **Ethiopia** (15.5% reduction), **Kenya** (30% ration cuts) and in **Uganda** (30% ration cuts since April 2020) coincided with the COVID-19 containment measures and limited refugees' livelihoods opportunities, resulting in increased vulnerability of refugees. Sale of food rations by refugees to meet unmet needs including the purchase of fresh food produce (fruits, vegetables and proteins of high nutritional value), and limited resources to widen the scope of beneficiaries for electronic fresh food vouchers contributed to challenges in the food security situation, and poor health indicators (malnutrition and anemia) amongst the South Sudanese refugee population.

In **Ethiopia**, backyard gardening activities supported 14,229 households and 267 groups. Small-scale cash-based interventions for refugees and host communities were undertaken, with electronic fresh food vouchers distributed to 9,862 households (49,310 individuals). Limited movement and reduced economic activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic, aggravated by insecurity in parts of Gambella, affected access to markets and led to interruption of the food supply chain, warehousing and logistics.



143,096

refugees received **productive assets, training and / or business support** in 2020 (18% of refugees 18 - 59 years, down from 32% in 2019)



5,598

refugees reported to be **employed or self-employed in the DRC, Ethiopia & Kenya** (0.7% of refugees 18 - 59 years))



69,976

refugee households live in **semi-permanent shelter** (18%, up from 12% in 2019)



193,829

refugee households have a **household latrine** (49%, against a target of 63%) up from 29% in 2019



21.3 L

regional **average litres of water per person per day** (against a target and standard of 20L) up from 17L in 2019



49,051

refugee households have **energy saving stoves**



14,758

South Sudanese refugees **tested for COVID-19** by 30 June 2020



705

South Sudanese refugees **tested positive for COVID-19**, with 18 deaths reported



80%

of South Sudanese refugees and host communities **reached with COVID-19 related messaging**



143

health centres supported or established for COVID-19 response, as well as **43 isolation centres & 22 quarantine centres**



98%

of health staff participated in **COVID-19 related trainings**



35,817

additional handwashing facilities established across the DRC, Ethiopia, Sudan & Uganda



20%

of South Sudanese refugee students reached with **remote learning** (e.g. radio lessons, study packs etc.) in Ethiopia, Kenya & Sudan



78,995

South Sudanese refugee households received **additional core relief items** as part of the COVID-19 response

In **Kenya**, the proportion of general food assistance provided through cash was increased from 40 to 50 percent of the general monthly food ration. RRP partners reviewed the cash transfer values in line with the current market prices to increase the purchasing power of the beneficiaries. However, overall, refugees continued to receive food rations that only met 70 per cent of the minimum recommended amount. In all refugee schools and vocational training centres hot lunches were provided. In the transit centres, RRP partners supported new arrivals with cooked meals.

In **Sudan**, about 87% of the target population were assisted by the general food distribution (GFD). RRP partners adjusted food distribution protocols and installed hand washing facilities at the distribution sites.

In **Uganda**, emergency food assistance to all urban refugees in Kampala started in June 2020 through cash transfers.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, RRRP partners prioritized prevention measures in all asylum countries.

In the **DRC**, 156 COVID-19 technical coordination and emergency management meetings were held and 173 health care providers, 250 community workers, 20 laboratory technician, 64 teachers and 45 border monitors were trained on COVID-19 prevention and response. 4 Transitional Quarantine Centres (CS Biringi, CS Nyanlanya, CS Bél , Dungu Transit Centre) were constructed and equipment provided to health facilities. South Sudanese refugees were included in government health programs and plans.

In **Kenya**, two isolation facilities with capacity of 51 beds, and two quarantine facilities with capacity of 1,000 beds for isolation and quarantine of refugees during the COVID-19 outbreak were established. The 8 health facilities within Kakuma camp and Kalobeyei settlement continued to offer comprehensive primary health care services without any interruption. Over 284 qualified health care workers and 220 community health care workers were trained on case management and infection prevention for COVID-19. There has been ongoing messaging on COVID-19 prevention and distribution of over 70,000 reusable masks.

In **Sudan**, RRP partners put in place COVID-19 prevention measures, such as training health staff on case management and infection prevention, conducting health education sessions among community members, and enhancing disease surveillance systems, active case identification and contact tracing. Additional hand washing facilities were installed at strategic locations in the health facilities. Due to funding shortages, not all required medicines, medical supplies and equipment could be procured.

In **Uganda**, RRP partners continued to support the national health care system as well as health facilities and referral services in and around settlements hosting South Sudanese refugees. As a result, equitable access and quality of health services for refugees and host communities improved despite resource constraints and COVID-19 related challenges. RRP partners also implemented a series of activities in support of the Ministry's COVID-19 Response Plan. Institutional quarantine and treatment centres were established across refugee-hosting districts and support provided to district health facilities to improve health service delivery for refugees and host community members during the COVID-19 pandemic. RRP partners further carried out COVID-19 infection, prevention and control activities across settlements. Refugees have also been included in the COVID-19 vaccine deployment plan.

Another critical priority was the response to malnutrition. In the **DRC**, a total of 1,952 individuals suffering from malnutrition received targeted assistance. In **Ethiopia**, anemia among refugee children (6-59 months) reached 44.2% and 15,863 acutely malnourished under-five children were admitted for nutrition treatment. The pandemic affected systemized management of nutrition treatment and curative programmes resulting in missed opportunities for timely identification and treatment of malnutrition. In **Kenya**, the integrated management of malnutrition programs obtained cure rates above 90% even during the COVID-19 pandemic. In **Sudan**, RRP partners continued to support community management of acute malnutrition, which involved identification and treatment of malnourished children aged between 6 and 59 months reaching a total of 21,212 malnourished children. In **Uganda**, 85.2% of severely malnourished South Sudanese refugee children recovered in 2020, while the rest continued to receive treatment.

LIVELIHOODS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Despite the commitment of RRRP partners to strengthen self-reliance of refugees and enhance the protection of the environment, livelihoods activities were severely impacted by resource constraints and the COVID-19 restrictive measures.

In the **DRC**, in 2020, RRP partners supported 2,229 South Sudanese households and host community members with self-reliance and livelihoods. 321 public awareness sessions and door-to-door sensitization campaigns for refugees were held at different sites to share information on livelihood activities. The majority of these households were provided

South Sudanese refugee Lucia, 23, holds her baby boy, Kevin, who was born at Nalemsokon health clinic in Kakuma camp, Kenya, during the pandemic. © UNHCR/Samuel Otieno



with agricultural kits consisting of seeds and farming tools. 278 households participated in economic initiatives in the area of carpentry, hairdressing, sewing, rice mills and motor scooters. 16 households successfully developed fish farming activities. As a result, an estimated 25% of the population of concern had their own business.

In **Ethiopia**, 90 hectares of forest land were rehabilitated and a wood lot plantation established in Gambella and Assosa to restore the local ecosystem. Refugees accessed 214.5 hectares of agricultural land in Assosa for cultivation and 120,25 hectares in Gambella. 594 refugee and 405 host community households received vaccinated livestock and poultry for restocking and income generation. Due to inadequate resources, more than 70% (90,000) of the target group (18-59 years) for livelihoods and economic inclusion programmes could not be provided with productive assets (agricultural/farming inputs and shoats), training and /or business support to pursue meaningful livelihoods options. Only 2.4% of the refugee households use alternative and/or renewable energy. As a result, refugees continue to access firewood as the primary source of energy causing deforestation in the surrounding areas of the host community.

In **Kenya**, RRP partners provided COVID-19 business recovery grants to 1,057 business owners to maintain markets and household incomes. The presence of private microfinance continued to facilitate semi-formal loan access to existing entrepreneurs. Given that refugees do not have any access to the national electricity grid, diesel generators and renewable energy (solar kits) are popular. However, electricity generated from diesel is expensive and the renewable energy sources only cover minor needs.

In **Sudan**, jobs and income opportunities for refugees remained limited and were affected by the current recession in Sudan. The sharp increase in food prices and essential items further exacerbated the situation of South Sudanese refugees in Sudan. The COVID-19 pandemic, lockdown measures and fuel shortages affected many households, small businesses, and agricultural workers. Due to the high inflation and movement restrictions, only 6% of the South Sudanese refugee population was assisted with energy interventions in White Nile and East Darfur States. This included the distribution of Fuel-Efficient Stoves (FES) to 3,350 households (31,250 individuals), the construction of five stove production units and the distribution of 2,400 mud stoves.

In **Uganda**, the Government's Jobs and Livelihoods Response Plan increased investment in income-generating activities, access to savings and credit, and to sustainable employment opportunities through strengthened engagement of local government and private sector in the delivery of services to refugees and host communities (e.g. agriculture extension and registration of small businesses). RRP partners stepped up income-generating activities including joint host and refugee community agricultural projects and local production initiatives. Almost 100,000 South Sudanese refugee households benefitted from emergency livelihoods support throughout 2020. RRP partners also supported green livelihoods activities such as beekeeping and agroforestry, in addition to other environment activities such

Mary, a 26-year-old South Sudanese refugee living in Kakuma camp, Kenya, helps water vegetables at a Women's Centre in Kalobeyei Settlement. © UNHCR/Samuel Otieno



as community mobilization and sensitization, environmental restoration and protection, raising tree seedlings and tree growing and maintenance to address environmental challenges in refugee-hosting districts in furtherance of the objectives of the Government's Water and Environment Response Plan. In 2020, 909 South Sudanese refugees were engaged in green livelihoods and 2,339 hectares of woodlots were established and maintained in areas hosting South Sudanese refugees. RRP partners also supported 17,684 South Sudanese refugees to access energy-saving equipment, including energy saving stoves, solar lanterns and heat retaining baskets.

SHELTER AND NFIS

In the context of the pandemic, RRP partners supported the construction of reception, isolation and quarantine centers in addition to the creation of emergency and transitional shelters, as well as the upgrading of housing for refugees to varying extents in all asylum countries. RRP partners also distributed 500 grams of soap/person/month to refugees to enhance handwashing to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

In the **DRC**, RRP partners provided shelter support to vulnerable families using a participatory approach and local construction techniques. Some 600 shelters were constructed in Bele, and 18 shelters were rehabilitated in Biringi site. Several COVID-19 quarantine centers were constructed and equipped, and six transit centres maintained in maintained in Dungu, Faradje and Aru provinces. 650 newly arrived households were supported with NFIs in Biringi, Meri and Bele settlements.

In **Ethiopia**, RRP partners increased the shelter coverage in Gambella and Assosa from 52% to 55.6%. A total of 737 emergency shelters were constructed and provided to refugee households who were relocated from Pagak to Nguenyiel camp. In Assosa, 136 emergency shelters were constructed in Tsore and Gure-Shombolla refugee camps for new arrivals. 7,889 new arrivals from South Sudan relocated from Pagak Reception Centre to Nguenyiel camp received NFIs upon arrival. Targets for transitional shelter maintenance, road construction and establishment of GBV safe shelters and community centres were not met due to funding constraints.

In **Kenya**, at the end of 2020, 5,509 new South Sudanese asylum-seekers benefited from 1,895 semi-permanent shelters, and 1,776 households received cash to upgrade their shelters to permanent houses. The semi-permanent shelter coverage reached 86.44% of households. Similarly, about 1,266 dilapidated shelters were repaired. 600 households (new arrivals) received NFIs.

In **Sudan**, the Shelter and NFI response prioritized support to 318,035 newly arrived refugees from South Sudan, 8,711 refugees affected by disasters, and relocated cases. Key challenges for NFI distributions were related to NFI delivery time, fuel shortages and countrywide lockdown from March until August 2020. Efforts to improve transitional shelter and long-term solutions for South Sudanese refugees were limited due to funding constraints.

In **Uganda**, a total of 6,407 South Sudanese refugees who arrived in the settlements before the closure of the borders in March 2020 due to the pandemic, received emergency shelter kits and were allocated a plot of land. Several transit and reception centres were turned into institutional quarantine facilities for the district, hosting refugee and host communities. Over 200 km of major roads were rehabilitated in settlements hosting South Sudanese refugees. 25% of the targeted South Sudanese refugees (1,031 individuals) were trained/employed in sustainable construction to increase access to sustainable shelter. As part of the COVID-19 response, several health and reception centres were improved, and the Goboro Transit Centre in Yumbe District was converted into a quarantine facility. Overall, gaps and challenges in provision of shelters for persons with specific needs remained.

WASH

In the context of the COVID-19 response, RRP partners support reinforced WASH interventions. In the **DRC**, sanitation infrastructure including 710 latrines and showers were built in Bele, Meri and Biringi settlements, 451 hand-washing devices were installed at our various sites, and awareness sessions on COVID-19 prevention reached 342,534 people in the refugee and host communities.

In **Ethiopia**, campaigns on environmental and personal hygiene reached 347,489 refugees and their hosts. 8,024 hand washing stations were installed at homesteads and communal locations. Hygiene promotion activities were conducted by 374 trained refugee community outreach workers. Despite construction of 1,135 and 339 new family latrines in Gambella and Assosa camps respectively, 72% of households still did not have a family latrine or hand washing station in their homesteads.

In **Kenya**, in Kakuma refugee camp new water pipelines were installed, 15 community tap stands rehabilitated; and 17



Flood-affected South Sudanese refugees gather for a distribution of plastic sheeting, mats, blankets, mosquito nets and kitchen sets, in Sharq Al-Nile, Sudan. © UNHCR/Roland Schönbauer

boreholes maintained. In the context of COVID-19 prevention measures, information, communication and education materials were produced and 18 hygiene sessions and health campaigns conducted.

In **Sudan**, 85% of refugees and host communities were reached with COVID-19 related messaging and 611 communal hand washing facilities were installed in various refugee camps/locations benefitting over 355,700 refugees. In Khartoum and White Nile, 8 schools were connected to the water supply distribution network, providing access to safe drinking water to over 5,421 students. In South Kordofan, one hafir was upgraded in Elleri (Dar Batti) providing safe drinking water to over 25,000 refugees and host communities.

Against a target of 20 litres of water per person per day, the average was 22.12 L in **DRC**, 18.5 L in **Ethiopia**, 21.94 L in Kakuma and 25.47 L in Kalobeyei (**Kenya**), 12 L in **Sudan** and 19.5 L in **Uganda**. In the **DRC**, an increase in water supply capacity was achieved with the establishment of additional water points (Human Powered Pump) at the Mulongwe site. Maintenance, monitoring and control of water quality were also carried out at all refugee camps/sites to ensure refugees' increased access to water. In **Uganda**, the Water and Environment Sector Refugee Response Plan was launched by the Ministry of Water and Environment in March 2020, providing a comprehensive framework for WASH delivery in refugee hosting districts. 99.5% of the daily water demand was supplied through permanent water schemes, whilst only pockets of settlements which recently received new arrivals relied on water trucking.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

South Sudan Data Portal - <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/southsudan> **Ms. Catherine Wiesner** Head of External Engagement wiesner@unhcr.org;
Simone Schwartz-Delgado Sr Inter-Agency Coordination Officer schwartz@unhcr.org; **Kabami Kalumiya**, Reporting Officer kalumiya@unhcr.org;
Laura Swanson, Info. Management Officer swanson@unhcr.org

REGIONAL RRP PARTNERS

- Action Africa Help International
- Action contre la Faim
- Action for Social Development and Environmental Protection Organization
- Action For The Needy In Ethiopia
- Adventist Development and Relief Agency
- African Humanitarian Aid and Development Agency
- African Women and Youth Action for Development
- Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development
- Al Manar Voluntary Organization
- American Refugee Committee
- Association for Aid and Relief, Japan
- Association of Volunteers in International Service
- Bethany Christian Service Global, LLC
- Building Resources Across Communities
- Care and Assistance For Forced Migrants
- CARE International
- Caritas Uganda
- Catholic Agency for Overseas Development
- Catholic Organization for Relief and Development Aid
- Catholic Relief Services
- Concern WorldWide
- Cooperazione e Sviluppo
- Cooperazione Internazionale
- DanChurchAid
- Danish Refugee Council
- Don Bosco
- Doctors with Africa
- Enabel
- Ethiopian Orthodox Church Development And Interchurch Aid
- Commission Refugee And Returnee Affairs Department
- Film Aid International
- Finn Church Aid
- Finnish Refugee Council
- Food and Agriculture Organization
- Food for the Hungry
- Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit
- Global Aid Hand
- GOAL
- Help Age International
- Humane Africa Mission
- Humanity & Inclusion
- Impact Initiatives
- Inter-church Organization for Development Cooperation
- International Aid Services
- International Medical Corps
- International Organization for Migration
- International Rescue Committee
- Islamic Relief Worldwide
- IsraAid
- Jesuit Refugee Service
- Johanniter
- Kenya Red Cross Society
- LKAD
- Lutheran World Federation
- Lutheran World Relief
- Malteser International
- Medical Teams International
- Mercy Corps
- Nada El-Azahar Organization
- National Council of Churches of Kenya
- Norwegian Church Aid
- Norwegian Refugee Council
- Oxfam
- Peace Winds Japan
- Plan International
- Prime Skills Foundation
- Refugee Consortium of Kenya
- Relief International
- Right to Play
- Samaritan's Purse
- Save the Children International
- Self Help Africa
- SNV NDO
- TPO Uganda
- Trocaire
- Tutapona Trauma Rehabilitation
- Uganda Red Cross Society
- Uganda Women for Water and Sanitation
- UMORD
- United Nations Development Programme
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
- United Nations Office for Project Services
- United Nations Population Fund
- United Peace Organization
- UNWOMEN
- War Child Canada
- War Child Holland
- Water Mission Uganda
- Welthungerhilfe
- WIK
- Windle International Uganda
- World Food Programme
- World Health Organization
- World Vision International
- ZOA