

SOUTH SUDAN

Regional Refugee Response Plan

2021 Year End Report



REGIONAL SITUATION OVERVIEW

In 2021, South Sudan marked the 10th anniversary of its independence and the eighth year of conflict within the country. This protracted situation remained the largest refugee crisis in Africa with close to 2.33 million South Sudanese refugees living in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda. It continued to be characterized as a children's crisis with children constituting some 65 per cent of the refugee population.

The protracted conflict, devastating floods and increased outbreaks of sub-national intercommunal violence have left 2 million South Sudanese internally displaced across all 78 counties. The situation was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, limitations on humanitarian access, and severe flooding leading to additional forced displacement in 2021. Growing funding gaps have led to more acute needs, particularly affecting food security, while operational costs have increased due to logistical constraints. South Sudan was facing its highest levels of food insecurity since its independence in 2011, with over 8.3 million people needing assistance, including some 7 million facing severe food insecurity (IPC levels 3-5). Gender-based violence continued to be widespread in South Sudan because of structural gender inequality and gender power imbalances, with women and girls being particularly vulnerable to different forms of violence.

Since the warring parties signed the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) in September 2018, some 500,000 self-organized refugee returns to South Sudan have been recorded although a portion of these movements are understood to be pendular movements. However, access to essential services remained woefully insufficient, and conditions are not yet conducive to facilitating voluntary repatriation in safety and in dignity to South Sudan.

Photo Caption:

A South Sudanese woman at home with her family in Kalobeyei settlement camp, in Kenya. She took flee from South Sudan in 2016 due to war and insecurity. © UNHCR/Loduye Ghaise

2021 RESPONSE IN NUMBERS

2.33 M

SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEES
AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2021



USD 242 M

FUNDING RECEIVED BY DEC 2021,
REPRESENTING 20% OF REQUIREMENTS

90,252

NEW SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEE
ARRIVALS IN 2021

93

UN, INTERNATIONAL NGO AND
NATIONAL NGO PARTNERS INVOLVED

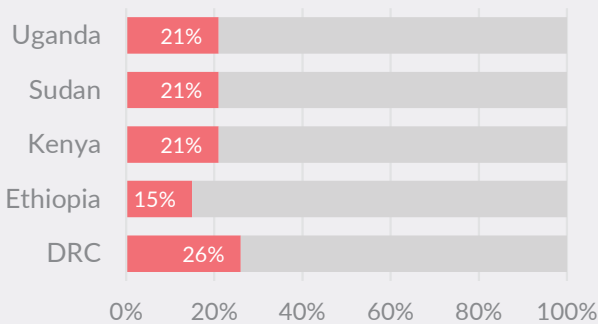
USD 242 M

FUNDING RECEIVED FROM

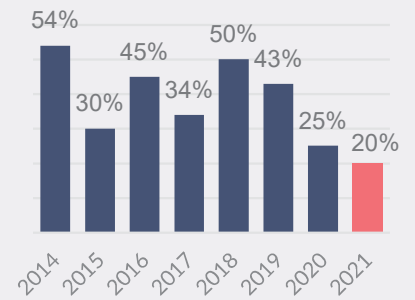
USD 1.2 B

FUNDING REQUESTED IN 2021

Funding level by response country



Annual funding status



REGIONAL SITUATION OVERVIEW (CONTINUED)

Most South Sudanese refugees are hosted in relatively remote, under-developed and economically under-served areas in the asylum countries. Host communities often find themselves in a precarious socioeconomic situation, impacted by food insecurity and malnutrition, suffering from limited access to essential services and economic infrastructure, as well as scarce livelihood opportunities. The situation further increased the vulnerability of communities including children and women to multiple protection risks including, loss of lives, injury, family separation, GBV and harmful coping mechanisms, as well as increased exposure to exploitation and abuse.

Recognizing long term peacebuilding, resilience and early recovery needs of Sudanese and South Sudanese refugees, IDPs and returnees, and complementing the peace processes and economic reforms in Sudan and South Sudan, the Solutions Initiative for Sudan's and South Sudan's forcibly displaced was launched in October 2020 as a flagship activity of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Support Platform, and with the support of UNHCR. It promotes a stronger collective response to create enabling conditions for durable solutions (voluntary repatriation, local integration, and resettlement/complementary pathways), as well as to strengthen asylum by addressing the humanitarian, development and peace-related needs of over seven million refugees and IDPs as well as millions of displacement-affected communities in and from Sudan and South Sudan. The Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP) is supportive of the South Sudan national solutions framework, which is predicated on an integrated solutions approach to refugees, IDPs and host communities.

The increasingly complex regional context due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the outbreak of violence in the DRC and Ethiopia, the difficult political and economic situation in Sudan with high inflation rates, as well as the stated intention of the Kenyan Government to close refugee camps posed new challenges for the protection of South Sudanese refugees throughout the region in 2021.

The complex nature and the sheer scale of forced displacement faced by South Sudanese and the tremendous generosity shown by asylum states require greater international support and responsibility-sharing in a spirit of solidarity. The 2021 South Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan included 93 partners who appealed for almost USD 1.2 billion to meet the critical needs of 2,335,800 South Sudanese refugees in the five asylum countries.

Despite soaring needs, in 2021 the South Sudan situation remained among the most critically underfunded refugee situations globally, with a funding gap of 79 per cent of the resources required. These severe funding shortfalls led to acute gaps even in prioritized areas of the refugee response, compromising the quality of child protection and the capacity to fully provide MHPSS and GBV prevention and response, and resulting in deficient investment in WASH infrastructure and insufficient livelihoods activities. Low funding also exacerbated climate change related vulnerabilities to both refugees and host communities. The situation was compounded by severe cuts to food rations in almost all host countries. 70 per cent of the refugee returnees cited drastic food ration cuts in countries of asylum among the reasons that prompted their return. RRRP partners therefore faced challenges in stabilizing existing programmes, let alone investing in long-term and more sustainable interventions.

Despite these challenges, RRRP partners continued to provide life-saving assistance to refugees and host communities, also promoted inclusive protection and solutions approaches including refugee integration into national systems. The DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda rolled-out refugee responses in line with the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR). The Government of Ethiopia, for example, followed through its GRF pledge by initiating the identification and

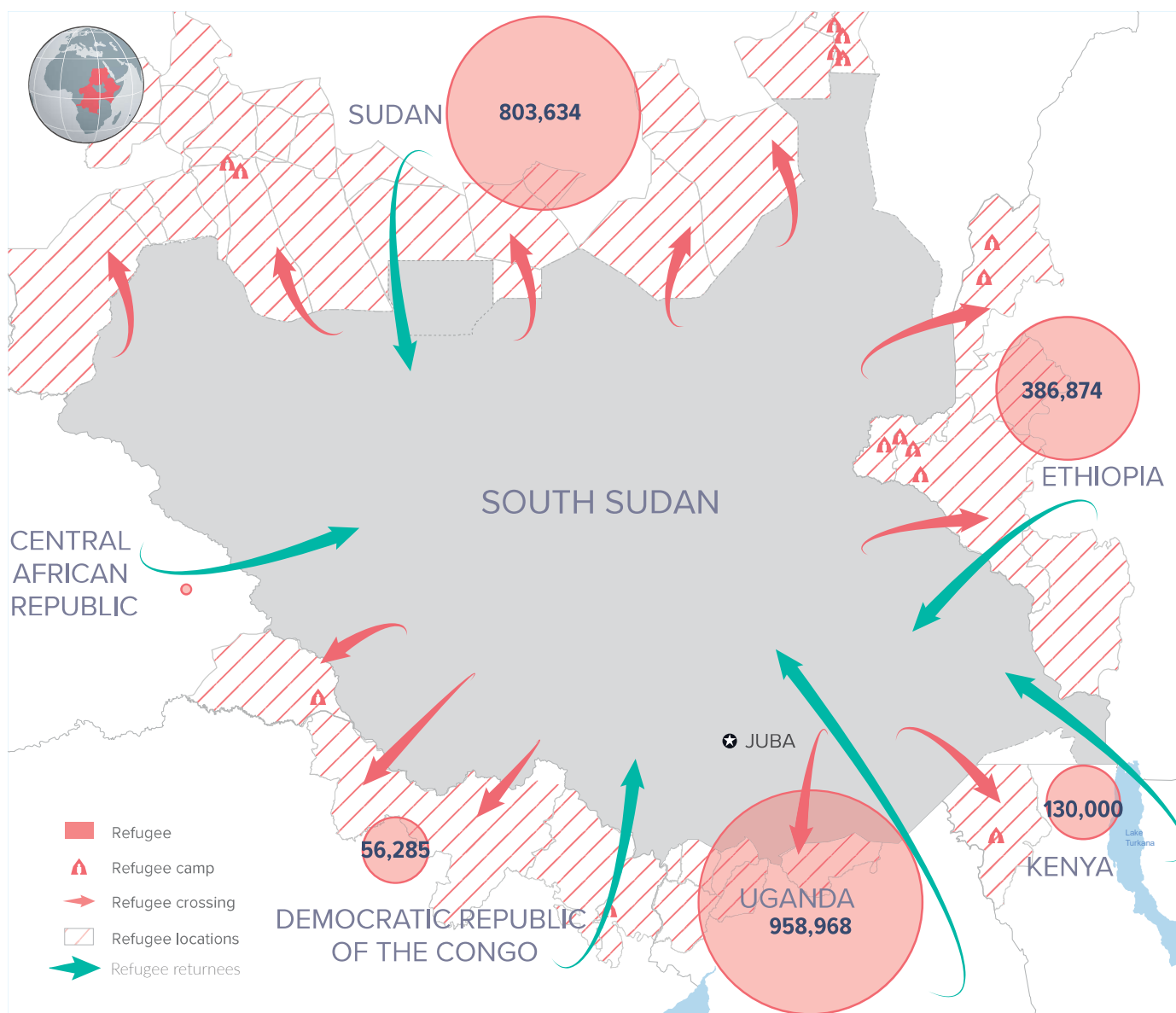
issuance of resident permits to 132 South Sudanese refugees in the Benishangul-Gumuz Region. In November 2021, the Government of Kenya adopted a new Refugee Act, which is largely in line with international standards and which entered into force in February 2022. RRP partners in Sudan made significant efforts to work along the 9 pledges of the Sudanese Government at the GRF with the objective to integrate refugees in national systems and facilitate access to work. Uganda's progressive refugee policies were implemented throughout the year. The Government provided land for housing and cultivation for South Sudanese refugees in the settlements. The sectoral response plan for jobs and livelihood was launched in the first half of 2021. RRP partners were also supported by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development to finalize the Sustainable Energy Response Plan (SERP).

SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEE POPULATION TRENDS

In the **DRC**, the provinces of Ituri and Haut-Uélé hosted a total of 56,285 South Sudanese refugees, of which 35,987 were living in sites. By December 2021, 770 South Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers had been relocated from insecure border areas to Bele and Biringi camps.

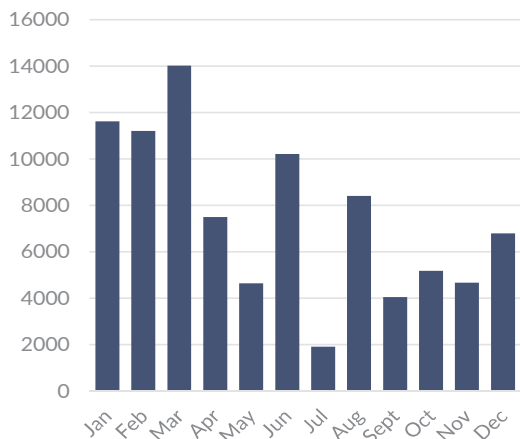
Ethiopia, hosted 386,874 South Sudanese refugees at the end of 2021, making this the largest refugee population in the country. Despite the temporary closure of its land borders to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the South Sudanese refugee population increased by some 50,000 persons in 2021, with the majority (381,392) sheltered in seven camps in Gambella region and five settlements in Benishangul Gumuz. The security situation in both regions remained volatile.

In **Kenya**, most of the over 130,000 South Sudanese refugees are hosted in the Kakuma refugee camp and Kalobeyei settlement in Turkana County. In 2021, some 4,000 new South Sudanese refugees were registered, including a large number of unaccompanied/separated children.



SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEE POPULATION TRENDS (CONT)

2021 Monthly Arrivals



Sudan registered the largest increase of the South Sudanese refugee population in 2021, with 81,203 new South Sudanese refugee arrivals, reaching a total population of over 803,634 at the end of 2021. 52 per cent were female, while 54 per cent were under the age of 18. 64 per cent of the population lived outside of camps. Khartoum and White Nile hosted an estimated 59 per cent of the total South Sudanese refugee population in Sudan.

Uganda was Africa's largest refugee hosting country in 2021 with over 1.5 million refugees located across thirteen districts of the country, including 958,968 South Sudanese refugees. About 94 per cent of refugees live in settlements alongside host communities, in areas which are among the poorest and most underdeveloped in the country. The remaining 6 per cent of the refugee population lives in the capital city of Kampala. Demographically, the population

is relatively balanced with 52 per cent of the population being female and 48 per cent male. Children make up 59 per cent of the population, while women and children account for 81 per cent of the population.

2021 ACHIEVEMENTS AND GAPS

PROTECTION

In 2021, RRRP partners continued to allocate 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, including child marriage and pregnancy, survival sex and theft. GBV incidents and the rate of suicides also increased since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Against this background, RRRP 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



A UNHCR field officer addresses South Sudanese refugees at the border reception in White Nile State before their relocation to a new site. © UNHCR/Sylvia Nabanoba

GBV prevention and response were also strengthened through community-based approaches and remote case management in all asylum countries.

In the **DRC**, a border monitoring mechanism was set up with the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) and RRP partners in charge of protection monitoring. This mechanism made it possible to assess the protection environment in refugee settlements. It also made it possible to conduct joint missions as well as advocacy with the local authorities to improve the protection environment for refugees once they arrive in the DRC. A mechanism for identifying and assisting children at risk was also put in place and as a result, 308 children with specific needs, including 187 separated (85 girls and 102 boys) and 22 unaccompanied (10 girls and 12 boys) were identified. By 31 December, 16 separated and unaccompanied children (10 girls and 6 boys) had been reunited with their families.

In **Ethiopia**, the COVID-19 pandemic continued to hinder service delivery throughout the year, leading to inadequate reception of new arrivals from South Sudan. Pagak reception center was congested for most of the year. An inter-agency child protection needs assessment was carried out in Gambella region. This assessment led to the strengthening of child protection programming through prevention and response services, coordination, capacity building, advocacy and intersectoral mainstreaming. In Assosa, renovation and maintenance of community structures' offices was completed through the Cash for Work project which offered opportunities to refugee contractors to earn income. The operationalization of One Stop Shop (OSS) in Bambasi in mid-2021 was a milestone. It resulted in 100 per cent documentation of persons of concern, setting the pace for all refugee camps in Assosa and Gambella regions.

In **Kenya**, the Government continued to register new arrivals throughout the year, except in May and June when registration activities were suspended country wide. Some South Sudanese asylum-seekers indicated famine as a reason for their flight, while others cited inter-communal conflicts and lack of opportunities in education and healthcare. A total of 288 separated and unaccompanied refugee children were registered in Kakuma and Kalobeyei in 2021. The increase in the number of new arrivals, temporary suspension of registration and countrywide disruption of the supply of construction timber slowed down the construction and resulted in increased congestion in reception/quarantine facilities. The new Refugee Act was adopted at the end of 2021. The Act affirms protection from non-refoulement, provides for the establishment of new procedures including for refugee status determination and outlines solutions including local integration. The law designates the accommodation of refugees to specific areas of the country.

In **Sudan**, the protection response in 2021 resulted in specific achievements in delivering protection assistance to South Sudanese refugee children, with approximately 92 per cent



88%

South Sudanese refugees **individually registered** in the DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda



4,004

identified **GBV survivors assisted with appropriate support**



50,574

South Sudanese refugee children with specific needs received **individual case management** (57%, against a target of 70%) up from 48% in 2020



94,664

refugee children **enrolled in Early Childhood Development programmes** (34%, against a target of 27%)



366,883

refugee children **enrolled in primary school** (60%, against a target of 66%) down from 63% in 2020



41,842

refugee children **enrolled in secondary school** (15.65%, against a target of 16%)



1.94 million

South Sudanese refugees received **food assistance** (84% of refugees targeted for food assistance, against a target of 83%), though only 496,855 (26%) received the full recommended ration



28,893

refugee women **delivered babies with assistance** from qualified health personnel (92%, against a target of 69%)

unaccompanied and/or separated children having been placed in alternative care arrangements, which demonstrated high levels of community engagement and strong commitment from authorities. Furthermore, 76 per cent of South Sudanese refugee children with specific needs received case management support. Whereas a total of 517,525 South Sudanese refugees were registered in 2021, challenges in access to registration and documentation continue to leave many refugees exposed to protection risks. Remote locations remain particularly affected by low capacity and sparse operational coverage, curbing access to protection services for South Sudanese refugees.

In **Uganda**, South Sudanese refugees continued to enter the country through unofficial entry points despite the borders being officially closed. By the end of 2021, the number of South Sudanese refugees registered in Uganda was 958,968. All South Sudanese asylum-seekers were granted refugee status on a prima-facie basis. Food cuts, limited livelihood opportunities as well as constrained humanitarian funding led to heightened protection risks for refugees. The pandemic also minimized refugees' abilities to access livelihoods resulting in increased cases of intimate partner violence, separation of families and heightened levels of psychological distress. The Feedback, Referral and Resolution Mechanism helpline received a total of 39,000 calls during the year, representing a 10 per cent increase from 2020. By the end of 2021, a total of 28,665 persons including 11,255 females (39.3 per cent) were involved in social economic activities under the national social services paradigm.

EDUCATION

In 2021, education priorities included ensuring that refugees have access to inclusive, quality, and affordable basic education despite the ripple effects from COVID-19. RRRP partners sought to improve access to learning environments by rehabilitating or setting up conducive school infrastructure. Paying school fees and providing school kits to refugee children was also prioritized.

In the **DRC**, RRP partners facilitated access to primary education for 5,271 refugee children, of whom 2,637 girls and 2,634 boys completed the school year 2020-2021. In secondary education, 162 refugee students (61 girls and 101 boys) were supported. Construction of a primary school in Bele was finalized. Nevertheless, the school enrolment rate among refugee children remained low (15.6 per cent) due to lack of resources to cover school fees and prerequisite kits.

In **Ethiopia**, the education sector continued to face structural gaps in the access to safe learning environments, shortage of key infrastructure as well as inadequate inputs for teaching and learning. There were however notable achievements in the education sector including the attainment of high learning outcomes with respective success rates of 92 per cent for students in Grade 8 and 94 per cent in Grade 12. Digital education enrolment was also piloted in Nguenyiel refugee camp where 18,153 (6,571 female) primary school students were enrolled. 714 refugee youth benefited from a tertiary education scholarship.

In **Kenya**, RRP partners supported the enrolment of 53,828 South Sudanese children in 19 pre-primary, 27 primary and 7 secondary schools. Two additional temporary secondary schools were established during the reporting period to accommodate increased number of children in schools. Gross enrolment rates stood at 86 per cent, 105 per cent and 60 per cent at the pre-primary, primary and secondary school levels respectively. Despite disruption of normal schooling by COVID-19, 6,749 children graduated from primary schools, with 79 per cent of them transitioning to secondary schools in the camps. 2,281 students also completed their secondary education. 96 South Sudanese children were



Students at the UNHCR constructed secondary school in Al Nimir South Sudanese Refugee Camp in East Darfur, in Sudan. © UNHCR/Akram Al-Absi

awarded secondary education scholarships to national and extra-county schools outside the camps. However, more than half of the school-aged children in the camps were still out of school. Refugee children also faced overcrowding in schools due to inadequate school infrastructure, insufficient and not adequately qualified teachers, differences in language and curriculum, age factors, protection risks and poverty. Girls and children living with disabilities faced challenges which affected their school enrolment, attendance and retention especially during COVID-19 lockdowns.

In **Sudan**, RRP partners collaborated with the Ministry of Education at the Federal and State level to support the integration of refugee children within national education systems, leading to the registration of 57,594 South Sudanese children in national primary school and 2,570 in national secondary school systems in 2021. Despite these efforts, high rates of out-of-school refugee children remain prevalent. The South Sudanese refugee population was scattered across the country with 64 per cent residing outside camp settings, posing barriers in assessing education.

In **Uganda**, the 2019-2021 education sector strategy was revised and aligned to the aspirations of the Education Response Plan I. The aim was to ensure 567,500 children and youth in refugee hosting districts have access to equitable access to quality education. The education sector generally registered an increase in the number of teachers and classrooms constructed. By the third quarter of 2021, some 190,238 learners representing 42 per cent of the enrollment target were reached through remote learning approaches. Despite these efforts, there were challenges including radio learning being limited due to low network coverage. Primary and secondary schools across the country were only open from January to April 2021. No data on enrollment was collected, as only those who had national exams resumed classes. During school holidays, teachers were progressively engaged in delivering curriculum, offering psycho-social support, engage communities, and monitoring the well-being of learners.

FOOD

The food ration cuts for refugees in the DRC (62.5 per cent of the full food rations or cash-for-food assistance), Ethiopia (16 per cent reduction with removal of sugar), Kenya (40 per cent ration cuts, with removal of fortified foods) and in Uganda (40 per cent ration cuts since February 2021) led to increased vulnerability. The sale of food rations by refugees to meet unmet needs including the purchase of fresh food produce contributed to poor health indicators (malnutrition and anaemia).

In the **DRC**, RRP partners provided re.fugees with hot meals, especially for the most vulnerable people and refugees relocated from Meri to Bele settlement or from the border areas to Biringi settlement. Limited resources, compounded by COVID-19 related travel restrictions made it difficult for



121,252

refugees received **productive assets, training and / or business support** in 2021 (15% of refugees 18 - 59 years, against a target of 18%)



13,782

refugees reported to be **employed or self-employed in the DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya & Uganda** (1.7% of refugees 18 - 59 years)



104,083

refugee households live in **semi-permanent shelter** (29%, against a target of 56%) up from 18% in 2020



213,902

refugee households have a **household latrine** (60%, against a target of 63%) up from 49% in 2020



18 L

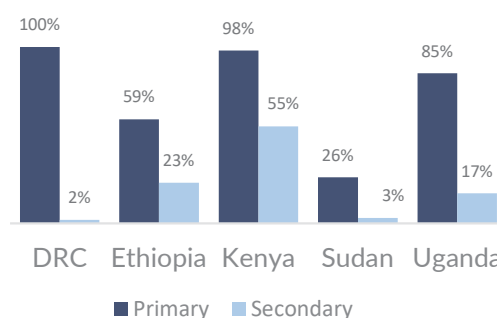
regional **average litres of water per person per day** (against the standard of 20L)



44,458

refugee households have **energy saving stoves**, (8%, against a target of 32%)

Enrolment in education programmes



financial service providers to distribute aid to the settlements on time. Various rebel attacks on the road to Bunia also led to delays. In June, cash aid for refugees was reduced from USD 16 to USD 10 (62.5 per cent of the full food ration).

In **Ethiopia**, WFP ensured that all refugee households received their monthly food rations throughout the year. A total of 335,856 refugees received food assistance. However, due to funding constraints, the number of kilocalories was decreased from the already significantly reduced portion of 84 per cent to 60 per cent. This effectively led to the reduction of the quantity of cereals from 13.5 kg to 10 kg. Vegetable oil was also reduced from 0.9 kg to 0.45 kg while super cereal (CSB+) was totally removed from the ration package. The food ration cuts led to serious health risks and malnutrition.

In **Kenya**, refugees and asylum-seekers living in Kakuma and Kalobeyei settlements continued to receive their food rations every two months. At the same time, WFP continued to provide three cooked meals a day for all new arrivals and hot meals in all primary and pre-schools. Since October 2021, refugees only received 52 per their food rations due to funding shortfalls.

In **Sudan**, RRP partners provided food assistance to 496,855 South Sudanese refugees on a monthly basis in Sudan. Nevertheless, South Sudanese refugees continued to face grave food security needs, as the declining economy, with high inflation rates - coupled with breaks in supply chains affected food affordability and availability. This led to reduced purchase power especially among refugees, exacerbating pre-existing vulnerabilities including food insecurity. There was a strong need to increase self-reliance opportunities including boosting agricultural activities among refugees.

In **Uganda**, an interim geographic prioritization scheme in food distribution was implemented in November 2021 due to constrained funding. The 13 settlements were grouped into three categories based on the proportion of households with high economic vulnerability. Refugees living in Palorinya, Imvepi, Rhino Camp, Bidibidi and Koboko settlements, received their food entitlements at 70 per cent. Those in Adjumani, Kiryandongo and Palabek received 60 per cent, and settlements in Southwest received a 40 per cent ration. The percentage of refugee households with inadequate food consumption reduced slightly from 43.8 per cent recorded in Quarter 3 to 36.4 per cent in Quarter 4 of 2021. This improvement was attributed to harvests and Christmas related festive consumption in Quarter 4. The overall Reduced Copying Strategy Index (RCSI) across the response reduced to 19.86 in Quarter 4, up from 23.6 recorded in Quarter 3. The shift to geographic prioritization of food assistance where, the most vulnerable refugee communities received higher food rations was considered to contribute to the overall improvement of food security indicators. By the end of 2021, RRP partner's financial literacy trainings had reached 84 per cent of targeted refugee households (141,010 households).



A host community woman poses with her friend from South Sudan at the Horticulture Farm in Kalobeyei settlement. The farm benefits 300 refugee and host community farmers and is supported by WFP, FAO, UNHCR, and the County Government of Turkana under the Kalobeyei Integrated Socio-Economic Development Plan (KISED) © UNHCR/Samuel Otieno



A South Sudanese refugee woman with her seven-month-old baby at Biringi settlement, Ituri province, north-east Democratic Republic of Congo. © UNHCR/Hugh Kinsella Cunningham

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, RRRP partners prioritized prevention measures in all asylum countries. The inclusion of refugees in COVID-19 vaccination plans by the governments was observed in Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda.

In **DRC**, focus was on addressing micronutrient deficiencies, treating malnutrition and providing nutritional information through screenings. RRP partners also provided nutritional support for severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). Nutritional monitoring of infants as well as monitoring of people with chronic diseases and expectant women was done throughout the year. In 2021, a total of 53,172 refugees received free primary health care, while 1,020 refugees received secondary health care assistance in the general hospital.

In **Ethiopia**, healthcare and nutrition-specific interventions (at 18 nutrition centres across the camps, nutrition-sensitive agriculture as well as fresh food vouchers) including home-based care sessions and antenatal care services helped to maintain acute malnutrition at acceptable levels (10.6 per cent) among children. However, the prevalence of anaemia remained above the 40 per cent critical threshold. Refugees are included in the Ministry of Health COVID-19 vaccination plan and 2,230 refugees were vaccinated by mid-year. Despite the challenges related to COVID-19, RRP partners continued to provide preventive measures and comprehensive primary care in refugee camps through a network of 18 health facilities.

In **Kenya**, nutrition programs continued to target children with moderate and severe malnutrition. These programs remained within sphere standards despite the challenges posed by COVID-19. Shortage of qualified healthcare workers led to the reliance of semi-skilled workers effectively compromising the quality of care. There was an overall need to scale-up the enrollment of refugees and asylum-seekers into the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF). Government policy allows refugees and asylum-seekers to enroll in this national scheme.

In **Sudan**, RRP partners consistently provided health care services and nutritional support to South Sudanese refugees in line with the national nutrition response plan. However, low funding led to significant challenges in the delivery of quality and accessible healthcare, especially among rural and vulnerable populations including South Sudanese refugees. In 2021, RRP partners worked in close coordination with the Ministry of Health to gradually integrate refugees into national healthcare systems.

In **Uganda**, the Health and Nutrition sector aimed at ensuring full integration of comprehensive primary health care services for refugees into national and local government systems. This was in line with the Health Sector Integrated Refugee Response Plan (2019-2024). There were high rates of anaemia in the settlements causing deaths among children under 5 years. The health facility delivery rate stood at 95 per cent. Only 36.4 per cent of the health facilities where South Sudanese refugees received health services, had been accredited and integrated into national systems.

LIVELIHOODS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

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

In the **DRC**, 143 farming groups were established consisting of 1,433 households (1,200 in Biringi and 233 in Bele) with each household getting a portion of 0.5 hectares. With good facilitation of tools and seeds, the 1,349 households harvested about 888 tons of food at the end of the year. Two tractors were acquired for the mechanization of agriculture in Biringi and in Bele. Diversification of livelihood activities was promoted through a poultry project (breeding of 1,500 laying hens) in Biringi for the benefit of 30 households including 9 indigenous households, as well as through the excavation of two new fishponds.

In **Ethiopia**, the Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) was supported to prepare a five-year strategic plan for rolling-out the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR). RRP partners also supported Gambella region to develop a 10-year perspective plan which explicitly incorporated the GCR and refugee issues in service sectors, safety net programs and land acquisitions. In agricultural livelihoods intervention, RRP partners offered 512 hectares of farmland within refugee camps providing 3,056 refugees with technical support from agronomists and livelihoods partners. 873 refugees engaged in diary, poultry with chicken feed and goats fattening in the refugee camps. In cash and kind working capital was provided to 1,850 refugees engaged in small businesses, such as cafeterias, shops, grinding mills, bakery houses, tailoring, sanitary pads production, and hairdressing. 315 refugees (out of 5,729 targeted for livelihood opportunities) received residence permits to allow them to move without restrictions. These livelihood interventions significantly improved refugees' skills and income, food security and general living conditions. As regards the protection of the environment, about 66 hectares of degraded forest land and woodlots in Gambella camps were restored and developed. About 165,000 multipurpose seedlings were planted, representing 94 per cent of the planned target. In addition, 1,000 solar lanterns and 865 UCD stoves were distributed for vulnerable refugees' households in seven refugee camps.



A vegetable shop run by a Sudanese woman inside a South Sudanese refugee settlement, in Kharasana, West Kordofan. © UNHCR/Deep Raj Uprety



South Sudanese refugees at Bidibidi settlement, Uganda, work on a construction site as part of the cash for work programme, which provides hands on learning opportunities and employment. © UNHCR/Esther Ruth Mbabazi

In **Kenya**, persons of concern living in camps were not connected to the national electricity grid in 2021. About 11 per cent of the households relied on power supplied by unregulated independent producers as their primary source of lighting. Biomass was the main source of energy in the camps, helping meet 97 per cent of household cooking energy needs. The gradual increase of population in the camps over years has led to the overreliance of biomass for fuelwood. Households heavily relied on natural resources for construction materials which often led to overburdening of the ecosystem.

In **Sudan**, RRP partners provided agricultural inputs to 14,421, vocational training for 330, and small business grants for 250 South Sudanese refugees to strengthen self-reliance. A total of 1,525 South Sudanese households were supported with fuel in White Nile State, and 30,814 received improved cooking stoves. However, the deforestation rate is higher than reforestation due to high use of firewood and charcoal, with over 70 per cent of households having no access to alternative sources of energy that include fuel efficient stoves. High fuel costs forced families to engage in negative coping strategies, including walking long distances away from camps to collect firewood. With this practice, many refugees especially girls risked missing school and facing increased protection risks.

In **Uganda**, emergency livelihood support was reduced. However, there was notable growth in training activities for business management and Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA) across all settlements. RRP partners focused their attention on initiatives that can improve coordination, knowledge sharing on good practices, engaging the private sector and conducting research to promote strong implementation across all sector outcomes. They also engaged the National Forestry Authority (NFA) to complete the establishment of 300 hectares of plantation for restoring degraded Central Forest Reserves (CFRs). The Forest Reserves included 100 hectares in Rwensabya CFR, 100 in Kulua, 50 in Bugoma CFR, and 50 in Kyangwali settlement. This brought the cumulative number of hectareage restored and promoted by NFA since 2019 to 771 hectares. The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development also finalized the development of the Sustainable Energy Response Plan (SERP) for refugees and host communities. By the end of the year, 23,826 energy saving stoves had been disseminated to households, with South Sudanese receiving 39.2 per cent of the total share.

SHELTER AND NFIs

Across the region, RRP partners supported the construction of reception, isolation and quarantine centers to help curb the spread of COVID-19. They also facilitated the establishment of emergency and transitional shelters, as well as the upgrading of housing for refugees in the five hosting countries.

In **DRC**, 400 transitional shelters were constructed, and cash assistance allocated to some households to complete their shelters. A total of 66 emergency shelters for persons with special needs were transformed into permanent adobe brick shelters. In order to facilitate the settlement of relocated asylum seekers and refugees to the Bele and Biringi sites, 354 households (374 women and 405 men) received NFI assistance. 2,036 refugees, together with some 165 members of the host community in Bele were supplied with clothing.

In **Ethiopia**, the percentage of refugee households living in semi-permanent shelters in Gambella and Assosa reached 56 per cent at the end of the year. A total of 1,017 new transitional shelters and 1,204 emergency shelters were constructed and allocated to new refugee arrivals to the camps. By the end of 2021, there were still more than 9,000 refugees residing in Pagak reception center for whom 1,800 emergency shelters are needed to be relocated in refugee camps. 4.78 km new roads were constructed and 18.11 km of existing road networks maintained to improve access to service facilities in Gambella such as water pumping stations, food distribution centers and health facilities.

In **Kenya**, a total of 9,047 registered South Sudanese refugees were supported with CRIs upon arrival at the refugee camps. Over 99 per cent of the total registered refugees and asylum-seekers were verified through the Proof of Life exercise. All 125,830 verified individuals from 23,666 households were supported with cash assistance for purchasing CRIs. A new cohort of 169 households comprising of 1,189 individuals benefitted from permanent shelters constructed through Cash Based Interventions (CBI). At the end of 2021, 9,983 new asylum-seekers benefitted from 3000 semi-permanent shelters. However due to funding constraints, only 80.13 per cent of the population lived in adequate shelters. The construction of new shelters was also slowed down by poor road networks and infrastructure in the camps. The active involvement of South Sudanese refugees in constructing their own shelters was considered necessary and key in inspiring a sense of dignity, while at the same time scaling-up financial inclusion and allowing refugee communities to contribute to the local economy.



A family of South Sudanese refugees sits in a communal shelter, in Sudan, after they were relocated from Alganaa camp which was destroyed by flooding. © UNHCR/Sylvia Nabanoba

In **Sudan**, RRP partners delivered CRIs to 22,861 South Sudanese households and non-food item replenishments to 3,847 households. A total of 4,382 South Sudanese households lived in permanent shelters by the end of 2021, and 13,974 households lived in semi-permanent shelters. Unfavorable climatic conditions posed a significant challenge to the delivery of adequate shelter and CRIs. Flooding caused cyclical displacement, destruction of camps, and loss of property, which increased shelter and NFI needs.

In **Uganda**, the sector provided a conducive environment for socio-economic transformation and resilience in all refugee settlements and hosting communities. This was done through construction of roads, renovation of reception facilities as well as developing comprehensive physical plans and demarcating land for shelter, livelihood, institutional use, common spaces, and buffer zones. RRP partners ensured that all refugees received appropriate and timely assistance in line with the sector strategy. This included shelter kits to enable them to construct their emergency shelters and non-food item (NFI) support in line with the minimum agreed standards for Uganda. Partners also ensured that semi-permanent shelters were constructed for persons with specific needs (PSN) using market and community-based approaches for construction.

Across the refugee settlements hosting South Sudanese refugees, 233 km of settlement roads were rehabilitated and maintained throughout the reporting period through both cash for work and mechanized means. In Kiryandongo, Rhino Camp, Imvepi and Lobule, out of 202.2 km of settlement roads, only 50.8 km were rehabilitated, leaving a gap of 151.4 km. Also, due to limited funding in the sector, there remained a big gap in the provision of semi-permanent shelters for persons with specific needs across the operation.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

While responding to COVID-19 throughout the year, RRRP partners continued to reinforce interventions around water, sanitation and hygiene. Against a sphere standard target of 20 litres of water per person per day, the average in DRC was 16.2. In Ethiopia, refugees received an average of 18 L in the seven camps of Gambella and two camps in Assosa. In Kenya, they received an average of 19.92 L in Kakuma camp and 22.77 L in Kalobeyei settlement while in Sudan and Uganda, the average was 17 L and 18.7 L respectively.

In **DRC**, 10 boreholes with hand pumps were constructed. Despite the construction of 400 blocks of family latrines and showers in 2021, serious gaps in latrine coverage remain in Meri (5,853 latrines needed) and in Beringi (1576 latrines needed). This means that only 3,208 households (30.47 per cent) of the total 10,530 refugee households had latrines in place.

In **Ethiopia**, the overall sanitation coverage in the refugee camps remained very low raising serious concerns. The average household latrine coverage across all refugee camps in Gambella and Assosa was 38.5 per cent, which is far below the sphere standard of 85 per cent. Information campaigns for personal and environmental hygiene were also carried out to help reduce communicable disease outbreaks and morbidities from water borne diseases.

In **Kenya**, RRP partners continued with routine maintenance and operation of the water systems in Kakuma camp and Kalobeyei settlement. Three boreholes were drilled and equipped with new generators. The latrine coverage was 51 per cent and 67 per cent in Kakuma and Kalobeyei respectively.

In **Sudan**, RRP partners ensured access to safe water supply for 437,733 South Sudanese refugees by supporting operations and maintenance of 45 water supply systems. The solarization of water systems in Batiu, Bagara and White Nile helped enhance the water systems efficiency. As a result, there was uninterrupted water supply to refugees and host communities. Sanitation needs however remained high, with 34 per cent of South Sudanese refugee households living without access to individual household latrines. Communal latrines were often ill maintained.

In **Uganda**, latrine household coverage for South Sudanese refugees' population stood at 76 per cent, slightly above the set target of 75 per cent. Institutional sanitation facilities constructed within the South Sudanese refugees' community stood at 4, which is below the set target of 7. The utility approach implementation progressed well among South Sudanese refugees with an attainment of 66 per cent against the set target of 100 per cent. The Ministry of Water and Environment in collaboration with RRP partners gazetted the system for utility entities. Despite the increasing needs across the settlement, there was a reduction in funding to WASH interventions due to the influx from the DRC which required reprioritization of resources.



South Sudanese refugees talk with the neighbours at the water point at Bidibidi settlement in Uganda.
 © UNHCR/Esther Ruth Mbabazi

Water litre (L) received per person per day



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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REGIONAL RRP PARTNERS

- Action Action Africa Help International
- Action Against Hunger (ACF)
- Action For The Needy In Ethiopia
- ADRA
- Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED)
- AIC-K/Johanniter Internal Assistance
- Alight
- Almanar
- Alsalam Organization for Rehabilitation and Development
- Alshrooq Organization for Social and Cultural Development
- Association for Aid and Relief, Japan (AAR Japan)
- Bethany Christian Service Global, LLC
- Building Resources Across Communities (BRAC)
- Business and Professional Women Organization
- CAFOD
- Care and Assistance For Forced Migrants (CAFOMI)
- CARE International
- Caritas Uganda
- Catholic Organization for Relief and Development Aid (CORDAID)
- Catholic Relief Services
- Concern Worldwide (CWW)
- Cooperazione e Sviluppo (CESVI)
- COOPI
- COSMESS
- DanChurchAid (DCA)
- Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
- Doctors with Africa
- Don Bosco
- Film Aid Kenya
- Finn Church Aid (FCA)
- Finnish Refugee Council (FRC)
- Food and Agriculture Organization
- Food for the Hungry (FH)
- Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit
- Global Aid Hand
- GOAL
- HelpAge International
- Hope and Homes for Children Organization
- Hope Health Action East Africa (HHA)
- Humane Africa Mission(HAM)
- Humanitarian Initiative Just Relief Aid (HIJRA)
- Humanity & Inclusion (HI)
- IMPACT Initiatives/REACH
- Inter-church Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO)
- International Aid Services (IAS)
- International Medical Corps
- International Rescue Committee (IRC)
- Islamic Relief Worldwide
- IsraAid
- JASMAR Human Security Organization
- Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)
- Johanniter
- Kenya Red Cross Society
- Lutheran World Federation (LWF)
- Malteser International
- Medair
- Médecins du Monde (MDM)
- Medical Teams International (MTI)
- Mercy Corps
- NADA
- National Council of Churches of Kenya
- Norwegian Church Aid
- Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
- Oxfam
- Peace Winds Japan
- Plan International (PI)
- Refugee Consortium of Kenya
- Right to Play (RtP)
- Samaritan's Purse (SP)
- Save the Children International (SCI)
- Self Help Africa
- SNV Netherlands Development Organisation
- Sudanese Organization for Relief and Recovery
- TPO Uganda
- Trocaire
- Tutapona Trauma Rehabilitation (TTR)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Development Programme
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- United Nations Migration Agency (IOM)
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- United Peace Organization
- UN-WOMEN
- War Child Canada (WCC)
- War Child Holland (WCH)
- Water Mission Uganda (WMU)
- Welthungerhilfe
- Windle International Kenya
- Windle International Uganda
- World Food Programme
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- World Vision International (WVI)
- ZOA