

SUDAN EMERGENCY

# Support to host community

Renk County, Upper Nile State, South Sudan | November 2024



Distribution of cash-for-food and essential relief items to flood-affected host community in September 2024. ©UNHCR/Sarah Velasco

In South Sudan, the town of Renk has become the primary gateway for people fleeing the Sudan conflict that broke out in April 2023, with the Wunthou border crossing being the main entry point for Sudanese refugees, asylum seekers, and South Sudanese nationals returning to their country to seek safety. Despite its own challenges and existing vulnerabilities, including a worsening economic crisis, the Government of South Sudan keeps its doors open and continues to welcome forcibly displaced people.

While the humanitarian response focuses on providing lifesaving assistance and protection services to new arrivals fleeing the conflict, it also recognizes the impact of the influx on the communities hosting them. To ease the pressure on limited resources and foster peaceful coexistence, assistance is likewise extended to the host community, with approximately **USD 16.5 million** invested since the beginning of the response until September 2024.

With 34 humanitarian organizations present in Renk, UNHCR is at the helm of interagency coordination, while working closely with the local authorities and government partners Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) and Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA).

**\*USD 16.5  
Million**

Support to host community  
since the beginning of the  
response until September 2024

**2,000**

Locally recruited  
personnel

*\*Due to different working modalities, not all partners are able to provide budget details. Thus, the amount indicated does not capture all the support provided to the host community.*

## SECTORAL RESPONSE



### Health

- Support to Renk Hospital: medical supplies, PPE/IPC kits, transformer, desludging of latrines, and filling overall gaps not covered by the government. Approx. 60% of the hospital operation is funded by partners
- Capacity building and provision of incentives to 65 government/MOH-seconded staff
- Establishment and management of cholera treatment units in Renk Hospital and Wunthou border
- Health services at the transit centers are extended to adjacent host community – consultations, immunizations, reproductive health, and referrals



### Nutrition

- Malnutrition preventive and curative services for vulnerable women and children, including referrals
- Linking malnutrition program beneficiaries to cash transfer projects, kitchen gardening and other food security and livelihood initiatives
- Training of County Health Department staff and strengthening of reporting system



### Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

- Rehabilitation of water treatment plants in Renk (including dike construction and perimeter fencing) and Gerger payam
- Installation and maintenance of surface water treatment (SWAT) systems
- Repair of water network in Renk town and extension to transit centers
- Water trucking to schools and Renk Hospital
- Fuel support to Public Sanitation Department for garbage collection in Renk market



### Education

- Provision of school supplies, teacher training and incentives, intensive English courses, monitoring and supervision
- Promoting school enrolments through back-to-school campaigns, formation of Girls' Clubs in three schools
- Inclusion of children's voices in peacebuilding and peaceful coexistence projects



An Access to Justice Forum where achievements, challenges faced in delivering justice to persons of concern, and durable solutions to address them were discussed. ©IRC/Emma Achan



### Protection

- Capacity building for staff and local authorities on protection and access to justice
- Targeted cash assistance for persons with specific needs (PSNs)
- Provision of mobility aid devices and physiotherapy sessions for PWDs
- Mental health and psychosocial support



### Non-Food Items (NFIs)

- Distribution of essential items to **25,975 individuals** from 12 villages affected by flooding in 2024
- Distribution of sanitation and hygiene kits in schools (soaps, buckets) and to PSNs
- Distribution of dignity kits to women and girls of reproductive age



### Food Security and Livelihood

- Distribution of cash-for-food to **25,975 individuals** from 12 villages affected by flooding in 2024
- Support to 7,000 households with livelihood toolkits during the main and dry seasons
- Support to almost 12,000 farmers and 50 farmer organizations to improve agricultural production and enhance resilience to disasters and shocks
- Emergency food production project for 12,000 households
- Building the coping capacity of 12,300 households to locust infestation and other pests



The rehabilitated Bobanis hafir in Chumedi payam provides drinking water to cattle during the dry season. ©IOM

## Infrastructure Support



Across sectors, significant investments have been made on infrastructure that would positively impact the host community beyond the Sudan emergency response. The overall estimated spending to date has reached **over USD 6 million**.

In 2024, improvements to the airstrip alone amounted to **USD 1.4 million** to accommodate more flights, including commercial flights, and facilitate the transport of humanitarian supplies. Repairs of main access and market roads were also carried out.

Classrooms, primary healthcare units, nutrition centers, latrines and handwashing facilities, seed storage and nursery, and a multipurpose community center were also constructed. Repairs of the same were also funded. In Renk hospital, three buildings were renovated along with other facilities: isolation ward, incinerator, water treatment point, and laundry room.

Hafirs or water dams were rehabilitated in Bobanis, Gosfami, and Dukduk, while construction is ongoing in Amdulis and Gongbar in Gerger payam. Expansion and rehabilitation of two hafirs in Chumedi payam are also planned for 2025.

## Flood Response



With the onset of the rainy season, several areas have been identified to be particularly vulnerable to flooding. Heavy rains in August 2024 led to flash floods, resulting in loss and damage to property and shelters, and temporary displacement.

Following an interagency assessment, cash-for-food and essential items were distributed to help the recovery efforts of **25,975 individuals** from 12 communities across Renk. In 2023, **9,480 individuals** from six villages also received essential items.

In addition, almost **USD 26,000** worth of tools were provided to help with community flood mitigation efforts. Items including 5,000 empty bags, 1,000 hoes, 1,000 spades, 1,000 diggers, and 500 rakes were handed over to facilitate the digging of dykes by the riverside and drainage in flood-prone residential areas.

## Indirect support



The humanitarian response in Renk has boosted the local economy through the procurement of goods and services, such as office equipment and supplies, property rentals for office space and staff accommodation, vehicle rentals, including water trucks, and hiring of local construction workers. Around 2,000 people were also recruited locally to support the response. Cash grants to refugees, returnees and host community are also mostly spent in the local markets.

## CONTACT

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