

Uganda Flash Update

South Sudanese Influx

12 - 15 January 2014

For internal and external use

Highlights

- As at 15 January, a total of **45,239 South Sudanese refugees had arrived in Uganda since 16 December** according to manual registration by the Ugandan Government.
- At Dzaipi transit centre (TC) the humanitarian situation is a dire with a lack of shelter, water, sanitation and health services and food distribution complications given the more than 33,000 refugees that have arrived or been transferred there from Elegu border point. Ocea reception centre in Arua is also facing serious challenges as more than 5,000 people are staying at the site that was designed to accommodate 400.
- A UNHCR team of technical experts in protection, water and sanitation, health, shelter, supply, arrived in Adjumani to support the regular and emergency response team already on the ground.



Dzaipi transit centre in Adjumani District as refugees prepare for the night. ©UNHCR/F.Noy

UNHCR, together with the Office of the Prime Minister and partner agencies, continues to maintain Dzaipi TC and Adjumani clusters in Adjumani District, Ocea reception centre and Rhino Camp settlement in Arua District; and Kiryandongo reception centre and settlement in Kiryandongo. Refugees arriving through Nimule/Elegu border point are transferred to Dzaipi TC and then to one of nine settlements in the Adjumani area. In Arua refugees arriving at Ocea TC through Koboko and at nearby Keri collection point are transferred to Rhino Camp. In Kiryandongo refugees have been arriving directly by their own means from the border.

Major Developments

Refugees continue to arrive mostly through Elegu border point near Nimule. Daily arrivals have fallen but are averaging more than 1,000 a day. Reports indicate some 20,000 to 30,000 South Sudanese are near the Ugandan border at Nimule.

OPM/UNHCR are supporting protection and have begun **biometric registration** of new arrivals in Kiryandongo on 8 January. Biometric registration is ongoing at Ocea reception centre and will also begin on 16 January at Dzaipi transit centre. It provides crucial data on age/gender breakdown and assists in identifying protection needs and targeted follow-up interventions. Persons with specific needs (PSNs) are being identified but a more systematic response is needed. Where possible PSNs are being provided family tents and have been distributed blankets.

In **child protection**, unaccompanied minors (UAMs) and separated children (SC) are being registered by URCS, and URCS/ ICRC family tracing is fully operational. URCS is identifying foster families for UAMs, for whom URCS/UNHCR are ensuring basic needs including water, shelter and food. OPM has conducted Best Interest Determination assessments for more than 200 UAMs in Adjumani.

There have been few reports of **gender-based violence** excepting a few domestic cases which have been counselled, however, lack of adequate shelter and lighting increases the risk of gender-based violence.



Newly settled refugees at Nyumanzi settlement in Adjumani District set up temporary shelters as they wait to be allocated plots by OPM in the morning. ©UNHCR/F.Noy

As partners struggle to respond to the continued arrivals given limited infrastructure and staffing, the challenges are many. In particular there is a critical shortage of water at Dzaipi transit centre and an urgent need to decongest the TC and move refugees to the nearby settlements. Shelter is also a major challenge as there is a shortage of the material owing to the massive global demands placed on stock piles since the crises in Syria, the Philippines, the Central African Republic and South Sudan.

The response on the ground is has been increasing daily. OPM/UNHCR partners in Adjumani District include Action Africa Help - Uganda (AAH-U); African Initiative for Relief and Development (AIRD); Danish Refugee Council-Danish Demining Group (DRC-DDG); Adjumani District Local Government (DLG); International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); Medical Teams International (MTI); Médecines Sans Frontières-France (MSF-F); Lutheran World Federation (LWF); Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS); Uganda Police Force: UNICEF; WFP and World Vision.

In Adjumani, AAH-U has provided tents to support health and begun water and sanitation interventions; AIRD is transporting refugees from the border; and DRC-DDG is carrying out water and sanitation interventions. In addition, LWF is carrying out water and sanitation interventions and shelter and will organize non-food items (NFI) distribution. MSF-F is supporting health and water, and MTI is providing assistance in health care. Oxfam has begun supporting water and sanitation and World Vision is supporting children protection. The Uganda police force is providing security.

In Arua District, UNHCR/OPM partners include DLG which supports health, water and infrastructure, and education; DRC-DDG is supporting water and sanitation and shelter; LWF is active in water and sanitation as well as working in prevention of gender-based violence. Save the Children-Uganda is working in child protection and provision of NFIs to vulnerable children; URCS volunteers are carrying out NFI distribution, sensitization for various issues and crowd control; Uganda Police Force is providing security; and UNICEF has been distributing NFIs.

In Kiryandongo refugee settlement OPM/UNHCR partners include AAH-U, Kiryandongo DLG; Real Medicine Foundation (RMF); and Samaritan's Purse; Uganda Police Force.

UNICEF is already present in the northern region and has sent plumpy nut and is training health workers and will be supporting water. Save the Children-International has sent medicines and UNFPA dignity kits and tents for new mothers. WHO has sent medicines and increased disease surveillance.

WFP continues to provide daily food rations for new arrivals in the various locations, including high-energy biscuits for refugees arriving at the border, is constructing kitchens at Dzaipi TC, and also supporting water trucking in Adjumani District. Food management at Dzaipi is being taken on by URCS and WFP.

Overall statistics

Recently updated end of year statistics indicate a drop in registered /asylum seekers and refugees with Uganda which is hosting 246,480 refugees and asylum seekers at 31 December 2013, down from 250,392 individuals at the end of October. However, some 4,500 Congolese refugees are currently being assisted at transit centres in western Uganda and since the end of December tens of thousands of South Sudanese have arrived in the country.