

Ethiopia: 2018 Year End Report SOUTH SUDAN REGIONAL RRP

January - December 2018



365,021

SOUTH SUDANESE
REFUGEES HOSTED IN
ETHIOPIA (31 DEC 2018)

US\$ 342.1 M

REQUIRED IN ETHIOPIA IN
2018

46%

FUNDING RECEIVED

24

RRP PARTNERS IN
ETHIOPIA
IN 2018

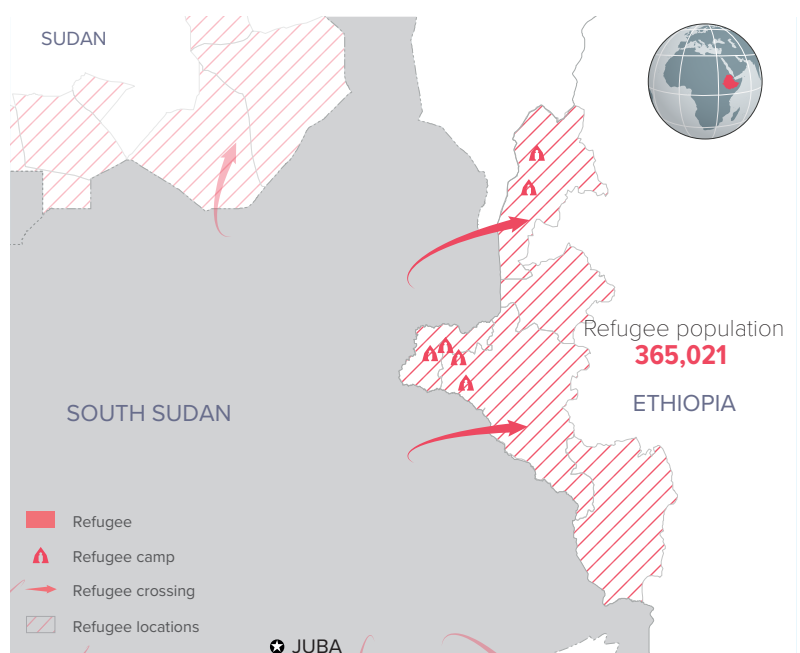
SITUATION OVERVIEW

The largest refugee population in Ethiopia is comprised of South Sudanese totalling 422,240 persons by the end of 2018. Ethiopia recognizes Refugees from a South Sudan are recognized prima facie, Ethiopia maintains an open border policy for persons fleeing persecution or armed conflict, having hosted successive waves of arrivals, and assisted subsequent voluntary repatriations, of South Sudanese over recent decades. Ongoing violence in Upper Nile, Jonglei and Unity States that has increasingly impacted border areas, resulted in 17,554 new arrivals seeking asylum in 2018. The majority were accommodated through the expansion of Nguenyiel Camp in the Gambella Region.

While noting with cautious optimism the signing of a revitalized peace agreement in September 2018 by the South Sudanese factions, and continuing to assess the enabling environment for safe and voluntary return, the Gambella Region in Western Ethiopia has continued to receive new arrivals. Despite ongoing informal cross-border movements, including traditional movements in tribal areas that traverse the border, the refugee population is expected to remain stable. Although a modest number of new arrivals have been relocated to the Benishangul-Gumuz Region to ease the pressure on Gambella, the trend of new arrivals traveling with livestock, together with a prevailing security environment that has restricted the onward relocation of persons of concern indicates that the Region will continue to host the majority of additional new arrivals.

There are a total of 35,000 unaccompanied and separated children from South Sudan in the Gambella Region. On average, this demographic constitutes 21 per cent of new arrivals. Many having experienced traumatic events leading to their initial displacement or during their subsequent flight, including the death of parents or forced recruitment by armed actors. As a consequence, child protection remained a high priority in the delivery of essential services; which included support for care-arrangements, psycho-social care at child friendly spaces, and if deemed necessary individual case management to determine the need for additional specialized care.

The security situation in the region remains unpredictable; with security incidents affecting refugees, host communities and humanitarian workers.. New arrivals are mostly of Nuer ethnicity, 91 percent based on current registration profiling, while the majority of Ethiopians in the Gambella Region are drawn from both Nuer and Anuak populations. As a consequence, identifying land and the expansion of camps within areas inhabited by Ethiopian Nuer is essential, as well as the promotion of community security, social cohesion and peaceful coexistence between refugees and host communities by enhancing access to justice for both communities. The natural environment in the area is fragile and access to alternative energy for cooking and light is minimal, resulting in refugees having to collect firewood.



Protection

218,955

South Sudanese Refugees registered under BIMS in 2018

Case Management for children with **specific Needs strengthened**

The number of SGVB incidents were high but still the follow up supports and response were in place.

The integration of the Biometric Identity Management System (BIMS) and transition to Level 3 Registration country-wide is ongoing. The process will conclude in early 2019. At the end of the year 218,955 South Sudanese refugees were registered using BIMS. The management of reception centres, timely registration and the transportation of refugees in safety in dignity to locations collectively identified as favorable protection environments was prioritized. Reception services were upgraded with a provision of wet feeding for long stays. A total of 25,413 new arrivals were newly registered in 2018. Following the conclusion of L3 in Nguenyiel Camp, there was a 20 reduction in the resident population to 75,174.

In Gambella, with 35,000 Unaccompanied and Separated Children from South Sudan at the start of the year, case management was strengthened for children with specific needs to receive specialized high-quality protection services. As a result, an expedited Best Interests Assessment (BIA) system has allowed a decrease in the number of unaccompanied and separate minors by 5,977 individuals. At the close of the year, the Mobile Court was launched to provide legal protection and access to justice, with a local judge presiding over 39 cases. For unaccompanied and separated children the number is high overall: 97 per cent of children with specific needs were unaccompanied and separated children, equivalent to 14 per cent of the total children in South Sudan refugee population.

All of the 339 SGBV survivors identified in 2018 received appropriate support.

Education

71,617

South Sudanese students enrolled in primary education in 2018.



413 students placed in 7 public universities under **government and DAFI scholarships.**



Funding shortfalls impacted on enrollment in Primary Education

Education services target all school-age children focusing on the provision of emergency education through temporary learning spaces during the first six months after arrival followed by a transition to formal education in established school structures, subject to available resources. The Ethiopia Refugee Education Response Strategy (2015–2018) sought to strengthen the organizational capacities and efficiency of school administration and management. Priority areas included improving the quality of education through enhanced teacher certification, expanding access through the construction of additional classrooms, together with the provision of school supplies, curricular and instructional materials.

RRP partners were targeting 101,921 school aged children to be enrolled in primary education in 2018. By the end of the year, 71,617 children had been enrolled in the 2018 academic year. An estimated 40% of school aged children were out of school, due in part to major funding shortfalls.

The construction of 148 classrooms, including toilets and administrative blocks were initiated in Tierkidi, Kule, Nguenyiel, Pugnido II, Jewi, and Okugo camps. Upon completion, construction works will create additional capacity to accommodate minimum of 14,800 students in the next academic year. In addition, as part of pilot integration of services, investments were made in two model high schools in Itang and Gog Woreda, in addition to Dimma public high school. In addition, three secondary schools in Jewi, Tierkidi and Kule were equipped with science and ICT laboratories benefiting more than 3,300 students. Concerning access to tertiary education, a

total of 413 students were placed across seven public universities in Ethiopia under both government (271) and DAFI (142) scholarships.

Food



The provision of the **monthly general food ration** continued throughout the year

Newly arriving refugees received their **in-kind ration upon arrival in the camp**

Ration cuts implemented throughout the year amidst funding shortfall.

The provision of the monthly general food ration continued throughout the year, with newly arriving refugees receiving their in-kind ration upon arrival in the camp. The monthly ration for all refugees was subjected to ration cuts throughout the year amidst funding shortfalls. The food basket did not meet the minimum diet requirements of both macro and micro nutrients and only provides 1759kcal/person per day against a need of 2100kcal/p/d. At the same time, there was only limited investment in food security livelihood activities to further household food security. There was a lack of diversified diets to meet the needs for fresh foods (fruits, vegetables and proteins of high biological value). In addition, the absence of adequate alternative energy for cooking negatively impacted the quality of food utilisation.

Health & Nutrition

Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) prevalence reduced to **13.5% in 2018**



Children between 6-59 Months **screened for Acute Malnutrition upon arrival and linked to appropriate programmes**

Health services were enhanced through additional investments in health centres and the scaling up of services for non-communicable diseases and neglected tropical diseases. The Ministry of Health and humanitarian and development actors ensured joint medical screening and the vaccination of new arrivals, as well as emergency treatment and referral at border entry points. To enhance quality of services, balanced score card assessments were conducted and followed up by action plans and capacity building while new Health Information System was rollout out to enhance data management.

All children aged 6-59 months underwent screening for acute malnutrition upon arrival and were linked to appropriate programmes. Comprehensive nutrition services focusing on preventive and curative care were available in all camps. Additional to the curative aspects of improving nutritional status, emphasis was given to preventive interventions with focus on multi-sectoral linkages/synergies with nutrition sensitive sectors like WASH, Health, food security, protection, shelter and livelihoods to ensure the needs of the refugees are met within their respective interventions.

Standardized nutrition surveys were conducted in all camps, which highlighted the reduction in the Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) prevalence from 23.5 per cent in 2017 to 13.49 per cent in 2018; below the emergency threshold. The Crude Mortality Rate, Under 5 Mortality Rate and Infant Mortality Rate improved reflecting improving immunization against vaccine preventable diseases, early diagnosis and treatment of childhood illness, improving integrated management of childhood illnesses, improving nutrition status of children and the provision of mosquito nets.

Livelihoods & Environment

2,700

energy saving
Stoves distributed



Modest investments
in **traditional
livelihood activities
implemented** in
support of Refugees.

Investments in energy and the environment are informed by the global Safe Access to Fuels and Energy Strategy (SAFE) strategy which provides orientation and details the application of innovative approaches and technologies, including clean or fuel-efficient cookers, alternative and sustainable fuels, and solar-powered lighting. The natural environment in Gambella has remained fragile and access to alternative energy for cooking and light minimal due to resource constraints, necessitating refugees to collect firewood. In 2018, only 2,700 energy saving stove were distributed.

Modest investments continued to be made in traditional livelihood activities implemented in support of refugees; including cash grants for small business development, the provision of livestock, and the welfare of cattle stocks, together with a number of skills training opportunities provided to youth within traditional trades, including welding and carpentry. To ensure tangible gains from self-reliance and a reduction in interventions that foster dependency, improving linkages with local authority plans and policies were sought as part of consultations with regional authorities, in addition to labour market assessments, to facilitate the gainful employment of refugees over the longer term.

Shelter & NFIs



Transitional shelter
coverage for **73,430**
Households was 45%

all new arrivals
provided with
emergency shelter with provision
of transitional shelters upon relocation.

54.9%
of Households
not living in
transitional shelters

All new arrivals were provided with an emergency shelter, with the provision of transitional shelters during the course of the year upon relocation to camps subject to available resources. A National Shelter Strategy 2017-2020 designed based on a country-wide Shelter Needs Assessment provided a basis for improved shelter and site planning standards for South Sudanese refugees. Of 73,430 South Sudanese refugee households, 45.1 per cent had transitional shelter.

WASH



South Sudanese
refugees received an
average of 17 litres of
water per person
per day

**Emergency
water supplies
provided to new arrivals**

> 44,000
**families don't have access
to family latrines.**

The provision of safe drinking water, emergency latrines and the dissemination of key messages on personal and environmental hygiene to refugees at reception centres and upon relocation was prioritized as part of the effort to reduce morbidities from water borne diseases as well as the risk of communicable disease outbreaks. Emergency water supplies were provided to new arrivals and transitioned to permanent water systems where possible, and integrated with water systems of host communities. In parallel, family shared latrines and showers were constructed to service each block within expanded camp locations and were transitioned to latrines for each household subject to resources. More than 42,000 families do not have access to their own family latrines. At the end of the year, the provision of safe water remained at the 2017 average of 14.75 l/p/d. In August, water trucking was discontinued in Gambella following Nguenyiel's integration into the Itang Water System.

CRRF

The Government of Ethiopia maintained an open-door policy for refugees and asylum-seekers and worked further towards the realization of the nine pledges made in 2016. Humanitarian and development partners worked towards strengthening the CRRF goals, and the related nine pledges. The revised Refugee Proclamation was unanimously passed by the Council of Ministers in June 2018, but remained with Parliament for adoption at the end of the year.

RRP PARTNERS

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

Clementine Awu Nkweta Salami, Representative to Ethiopia, nkwetasa@unhcr.org; **Hye Jin Zumkehr**, Reporting Officer, zumkehr@unhcr.org;