

## KEY FIGURES

Daily arrival figures from July 2016 are based on manual emergency registration or head-counts/wrist-banding. Confirmed figures will be available as the new arrivals undergo biometric registration. Figures prior to July are from the Government's Refugee Information Management System (RIMS).

**12,889**

Number of new arrivals between 18<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of January 2017

**1,841**

Daily average of new arrivals between 18<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of January 2017

**522,979**

Number of new arrivals since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016

**673,753**

Total number of South Sudanese refugees in Uganda

## PRIORITIES

- Expedite the registration and relocation exercise in Palorinya
- Ensure educational structures are in place prior to the start of the next academic year and ensure identification and registration of school aged children
- Ensure a sustainable and predictable supply of water
- Engage refugees/refugee leaders and host community members in coexistence and peace-building activities
- Promote and engage partners in livelihood interventions. Strengthen engagement of all partners, local authorities and members of the host community regarding interventions in Bidibidi.

## UGANDA

# EMERGENCY UPDATE ON THE SOUTH SUDAN REFUGEE SITUATION

INTER-AGENCY WEEKLY | 18<sup>TH</sup> – 24<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2017

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **12,889 refugees were received in Uganda from South Sudan between the 18<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of January. The arrival rate has continued to increase, with a daily average of 1,841 new arrivals, compared to 1,689 in the previous week.**
- The relocation of refugees to Palorinya Settlement continued, with 56,947 refugees being received in the settlement since 9<sup>th</sup> December 2016. To expedite the relocation of refugees from Palorinya Reception Centre to their allocated plots, a biometric registration centre has been established in Palorinya Zone II.
- Refugees continue to cite violence and indiscriminate killing of civilians, nightly attacks on homes, sexual violence, looting of livestock and property, unsubstantiated accusations of collaboration with opposition groups, fear of arrest and torture and lack of food and other basic necessities as reasons for leaving South Sudan.
- In Bidibidi, dedicated focal points were appointed for all five zones of the settlement in order to strengthen coordination and response at zonal level. Women's Groups, Refugee Welfare Councils and refugee community members were engaged to identify and address needs and concerns, promote peaceful co-existence and share information on activities and services.
- A high level mission from Denmark led by the Danish State Secretary for Development Policy of Ministry of Foreign Affairs Martin Bille Hermann, the Ambassador of Denmark to Uganda Mogens Pedersen visited the Moyo district refugee operation on 17 January. The mission visited Palorinya base camp, where they observed registration and distribution activities and interacted with refugees. After being briefed on the refugee response and challenges faced by the operation, the State Secretary reiterated the Danish government's commitment to supporting refugees in Uganda.
- From the 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> of January, the UNHCR Representative to Uganda Bornwell Kantande carried out a mission to Arua, Yumbe, Moyo and Adjumani with the objective of observing and reviewing the refugee response in northern Uganda.



*Busia border entry point, UNHCR assisting a newly arrived South Sudanese refugee, Jan 2017. Photo: UNHCR/M. Farman-Farmaian*

## UPDATE ON SITUATION

- The majority of refugees arriving in Uganda originate from the Equatoria Region of South Sudan, with many from Yei, Morobo, Lainya, Kajo-Keji and the adjacent areas. Refugees report that due to insecurity they are unable to use the main roads to the border and are forced to walk up to several days in the bush to reach Uganda, usually with few belongings and limited access to food, water and other needs. Many refugees are also arriving via the DR Congo, spending several days trekking through the dense forests of the DRC to avoid attacks by armed groups.
- Refugees report that while traveling through the bush in South Sudan to reach Uganda, armed groups prevent them from harvesting food left in abandoned gardens and farms. They also allege that armed forces are burning the bush, including farms and gardens, in order to clear the ground of rival groups.
- As the security situation in South Sudan remains unpredictable, the number of new arrivals has continued to increase. A total of 1,207 new arrival South Sudanese Refugees were reported at Elegu Collection Point in Adjumani district from 16-22 January, up from 927 refugees the previous week. Similarly, 3,256 refugees were reported in Moyo district, a decrease from 3,556 new arrivals in the previous week. 300 refugees were reported in Lamwo district, a significant upsurge from 73 new arrivals in the previous week.
- New arrivals are being relocated to Palorinya in Moyo district. Upon arrival at Palorinya Reception Centre, refugees have access to basic services: protection, registration, shelter, food, water, sanitation, healthcare and basic relief items. From the reception centre, refugees are relocated to Palorinya Settlement, where each family is provided with a designated plot of land measuring 30m x 30m and relief items for shelter construction. Refugees also receive a hot meal and a 30-day food ration for the family.

### Protection

- **Registration:** In Moyo, 4,329 refugees were biometrically registered in Palorinya Zone 2. A Litigation Desk has been established at Lefori collection point to address refugees' queries related to registration, nationality screening and related issues. This week, 106 cases were received at the desk, of which 68 were cleared.
- **Persons with Specific Needs (PSN):** In Bidibidi, 37 persons with specific needs were identified and registered, bringing the total identified in the settlement to 19,743. During the week, 354 PSNs were supported with targeted assistance, including clothes, mobility aids (crutches), solar lamps, food, and assistance during food distribution. The protection sector conducted an assessment to determine the needs of PSNs with mobility challenges and how they can be enabled to access service providers. In Palorinya, 843 PSNs were identified; the majority of whom were unaccompanied and separated children and elderly persons in need of assistance and support. Psychosocial support and First Aid were provided to 130 persons (82 female and 48 male) to address their specific needs, the majority of which related to age-related health problems and stress relating to living as a refugee.
- **Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) Response:** In Bidibidi, 31 cases of sexual and gender-based violence were reported, the majority of which were physical assault perpetrated by partners. A high number of intimate partner violence cases are related to the selling of family relief items and food rations, as well as unsafe shelter. Based on their needs and informed consent, all cases were followed up and provided with the appropriate support, including legal, medical and psychosocial services and relief items. Cases of sexual violence are reported to the police and follow-ups are conducted on a daily basis. In Palorinya, four cases of early marriage were reported, and the survivors were provided with psychosocial support.
- **Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) Prevention:** In Bidibidi, a task force has been established to address the issue of underage sex, focusing on awareness raising and increased youth engagement in sex education, including the risks of early sexual activity. 2,143 (1,182 female, 961 male) refugee youths participated in these dialogue sessions, with adolescent girls in particular expressing their appreciation as such issues are a taboo within families; they called for further engagement of parents, who often pressure girls into early marriage. In Palorinya Zone 1, 797 refugees (411 female and 386 male) were reached through awareness raising sessions conducted on SGBV prevention and response. In addition, 1,484 solar lamps were distributed in Zone 1 to improve protection and security at the household level.

- **Child Protection:** In Bidibidi, 413 children at risk were identified, bringing the total number of children with specific needs identified in the settlement to 3,929. 49 children were referred for medical attention and 256 were monitored through home visits. Case management, reporting, follow up and monitoring have been re-enforced to ensure timely response and assistance. In Moyo, 536 children at risk were identified, including 509 unaccompanied and separated children, and 168 best interest assessments were conducted in Palorinya settlement.

## Education

- **Registration:** In Bidibidi, registration for the coming school year is ongoing in Zones 1,3,4 and 5, with 15,636 children registered in total. In Moyo, outreach and community mobilisation activities to identify school age children continued. A total of 13,529 children have been registered, including 7,767 for primary School, 1,338 for secondary school, 1,168 for vocational training and 3,256 children registered for Early Childhood Development centres.
- **Scholarships:** In Bidibidi, selection of fourteen female South Sudanese students to benefit from scholarships for Grade III primary teacher training has been completed. The criteria for granting scholarships included attainment of a minimum of 5 credits based on the Ugandan certificate of education.
- **Assessment:** In Bidibidi, an assessment of educational needs was conducted in consultation with members of the Refugee Welfare Council in Zone 3, with the aim of identifying sites and establishing schools to ensure refugee children have access to education. Two sites were identified in the zone for the construction of new schools.



## Health

- In Bidibidi, 10,621 outpatient consultations were conducted, among which 14% were members of the host population. The leading causes of illness were malaria (31%), Acute Respiratory Tract Infections (25%) and Acute Watery Diarrhea (10%). As in the previous week, eight cases of dysentery were reported. 160 mental health cases were registered in the settlement and are being followed up. On 20 January, a meningitis vaccination campaign commenced in Bidibidi with the aim of vaccinating the refugee population between 6 and 29 years of age.
- In Moyo, 4,830 outpatient consultations were conducted, and the leading causes of illness were malaria (28%), Acute Respiratory Tract Infections (26%) and Acute Watery Diarrhoea (7%). At Lefori Collection Point, 620 children were immunized against measles and 670 were immunized against polio, with 620 given vitamin A supplements. 5,696 individuals have been immunised across Palorinya Settlement in the ongoing Meningitis A vaccination campaign targeting 1-29 year olds.



## Food Security and Nutrition

- In Bidibidi, a mass malnutrition screening for January was completed in Zones 1, 2, 4 and 5. A total of 20,459 children aged 6-59 months were screened, with an overall acute malnutrition rate of 3.7%. Screening is ongoing in Zone 3. A total of 2,624 children aged 6-59 months and 244 pregnant and lactating women have been identified and enrolled in nutrition programmes and 2,388 children are enrolled in the nutrition centres for rehabilitation.
- In Moyo, the first general food distribution was conducted in Zones 1, and 2. 6,127 persons were served in Zone 1 out of a planned population of 6,790, and in Zone 2 a total of 20,036 persons were served out of a planned 22,115. Interim Food Management Committees - with a 50:50 representation of male and female – were nominated by the refugee community at Palorinya settlement.



## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

- In Bidibidi, access to safe water stands at 14.6 l/p/d in Zone 1, 10.3 l/p/d in Zone 2, 14.1 l/p/d in Zone 3, 10.8 l/p/d in Zone 4 and 14.6 l/p/d in Zone 5. There has been improvement in the supply and provision of water to the population in Bidibidi through upgrading of various boreholes and pumping of high yield ones. Congestion at boreholes has reduced as trucks have a shorter waiting time to collect water.
- In Moyo, sanitation tool kits, including items such as wheelbarrows, buckets, spades and pick axes, were distributed to 320 households. Access to safe water stands at 24 l/p/d at Palorinya Reception Centre, where the latrine coverage

is 1 per 45 persons. In Palorinya Zone 1, sixteen boreholes are currently in use and access to safe water stands at 18 l/p/d, with a latrine ratio of 1:21. In Zone 2, 20 boreholes are in use, and access to safe water stands at 15.5 l/p/d. In Zone 3, access to water stands at 15.1 l/p/d with latrine coverage of 1:110.

## Shelter, Infrastructure and Distribution

- **Distribution:** In all settlements, refugees are provided with essential relief items upon arrival on their designated plots. Shelter kits are also distributed to assist with the construction of temporary housing structures. Women and girls are provided with monthly packages of sanitary napkins, soap and underwear. In Bidibidi, upgrading of the warehouse and connection to the UNHCR global management system will be finalised shortly, which will improve tracking and management of stock.
- **Shelter/Site Planning:** In Bidibidi, 69 shelters were constructed to ensure access to basic services for persons with specific needs. A total of 102,382 plots of land have been demarcated for refugees in Bidibidi to date.
- **Infrastructure:** During the week, 10.9 km of access roads were graded, with a further 6.3 km cleared. To date, a total of 402.1 km of access roads have been opened in Bidibidi Settlement.

## OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Protection:** Provision of income-generating activities, to reduce the risk of SGBV, and safe spaces for survivors. Mobility aids and other essential items to support the needs of persons with disabilities. Child Protection outreach mechanisms must be strengthened. Increase presence of law enforcement officers. Additional post-secondary educational opportunities and scholarships for youth. In Palorinya, construction of child friendly spaces and playgrounds and capacity building of child protection partners. Deployment of female police officers to enhance SGBV response and logistical support in the form of vehicles/motorbikes to facilitate regular police patrols in Palorinya.
- **Education:** Expedite rehabilitation of eroded school structures and construction of additional schools, especially permanent school structures, in preparation for the start of the school year in February. Implementation of appropriate recreational activities for children during the school holidays. Recruitment and training of 130 teachers and 40 classroom assistants in Palorinya.
- **Health:** Staffing shortfalls must be addressed to increase the number of skilled health workers. Construction of permanent health infrastructure in locations with tented health facilities. Additional ambulances are required in both Bidibidi and Palorinya, as well as a double cabin pickup to support health and nutrition programmes in Palorinya. Additional beds and equipment at health centres are urgently required.
- **Food Security and Nutrition:** Increase nutrition programme coverage in all the Zones (particularly Zones 3, 4 and 5) to address malnutrition. Overall capacity building regarding awareness, promotion and protection of nutrition programmes, quality community outreach program and nutrition surveillance. In Palorinya, strengthen sensitisation and community engagement on food distribution and nutrition.
- **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene:** Piped water systems are required for all zones of Bidibidi. Improved latrine coverage and decommissioning of latrines, as well as additional handwashing facilities. In Palorinya, generators are required for motorisation of high yielding boreholes, in addition to the installation of a water treatment plant. Additional hygiene promoters are also needed in Palorinya Zones 2 and 3.
- **Shelter, Infrastructure and Distribution:** Ensure an emergency stock of relief items and procurement of items available locally. Additional staff, capacity and resources for the upgrading of Bidibidi warehouse. Engagement of host communities on land allocation and identification of appropriate sites for communal facilities in Bidibidi. Additional heavy machinery to expedite roadworks. Timely delivery of a complete stock of relief items; availability of kitchen sets remains a gap in Palorinya.

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**Links:**

[South Sudan Regional portal](#) - [UN Refugee Chief: World must act to end South Sudan suffering](#)