

Healthcare Services at Goboro Border, Uganda

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Organization: Real Medicine Foundation Uganda (www.realmedicinefoundation.org)

Project title: Bidibidi Refugee Settlement

Project location: Bidibidi village, Yumbe District, West Nile sub-region, Uganda



South Sudanese refugee children quickly make friends and play together at Goboro border.

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RMF's Bidibidi Team Provides Healthcare Services at Goboro Border

It is now extremely difficult for refugees fleeing from South Sudan to find a safe path into Uganda, because neither the rebels nor the government forces in South Sudan will allow civilians to flee the country. Currently, all the border points are unsafe except for Goboro, which is a refugee's one chance, traveling on footpaths and through the bush, to arrive safely in Uganda. Thus, a majority of people wishing to flee the violence, food insecurity, inflation, and lack of services in South Sudan trail quietly through the bush to access Goboro and enter Uganda. Only then does the traveler breathe a long sigh of relief. Since refugees arrive at this point extremely exhausted, UNHCR and the Ugandan government opened up a reception center at this location so that exhausted refugees can be assisted quickly.

Considering the swiftness required in providing emergency medicine, RMF was recommended to be the partner organization in charge of providing first aid treatment, health assessment of all new arrivals, immunization of all children, and referral services for the seriously ill or injured and dehydrated children. Our team based in Bidibidi Refugee Settlement quickly rose to the task. At this point, RMF's major goal is to ensure that no refugee who has arrived in Uganda dies of any curable sickness. On a daily basis, over 100 people are treated.

Key needs:

- Essential medicines
- Sundries (gloves, giving sets, soap and hand washing facilities, aprons, fetoscopes)
- Shelter for working (mobile clinic van)
- Cotton
- Gauze
- Dressing kits
- Solar lamps
- BP machines and stethoscopes
- Thermometers
- Jerry cans for water
- Examination beds
- Protective gear for patients
- Disinfectants
- Stationery
- Various other medical supplies

When the exhausted refugees have received ample rest, they are respectfully transported by UNHCR and partner organizations to different refugee settlements where they are allocated land.

Key non-food items needed for refugees:

- Clothing for both children and adults (a majority arrive with only the clothes they are wearing)
- Shoes for both children and adults
- Sanitary pads for girls and women, diapers for small children
- Personal effects such as toothpaste, a toothbrush, soap, etc.

The refugees now arriving at Goboro (pictured below) are South Sudanese citizens who had waited patiently and hoped that the situation in their country would change. Each day, they have seen the situation deteriorating, and they finally left to seek refuge in Uganda.



April 10, 2017: Large crowds of South Sudanese refugees ready for transportation from Goboro Reception Centre to refugee settlements in West Nile sub-region





RMF's Bidibidi team running our outreach services at Goboro border, with Deputy Country Director Alphonse Mwanamwolho



While at Goboro Reception Centre, refugees receive health education (the basics of healthy living).



Buses ready to transport refugees from Goboro to different refugee settlements



Children create games to chase boredom away, while adults and buses wait in the background.



Children quickly make friends and play together at Goboro border.



RMF providing medical screening at Goboro border



RMF's Bidibidi team running our outreach program at Goboro border