

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).

9,437

Number of new arrivals between 5th and 18th July 2017

674

Daily average of new arrivals between 5th and 18th July 2017

309,424

Number of South Sudanese new arrivals since 1st January 2017

990,761

Total number of South Sudanese refugees in Uganda

PRIORITIES

- Ensure basic services for new arrivals and targeted support to persons with specific needs
- Accelerate biometric registration
- Community outreach and protection monitoring in the settlements
- Expedite rehabilitation and construction of school structures to ensure access to education
- 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.

UGANDA

EMERGENCY UPDATE ON THE SOUTH SUDAN REFUGEE SITUATION

INTER-AGENCY UPDATE | 5TH – 18TH JULY 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

- **9,437 South Sudanese refugees arrived in Uganda between the 5th and 18th of July at an average daily rate of 674. The number of South Sudanese refugees in Uganda now stands at 990,761 and is expected to reach one million within the next few weeks if current arrival rate continues.**
- The majority of new arrivals are women and children, who report that the security situation in South Sudan continues to deteriorate, with ethnically motivated attacks, prolonged violent conflict and forcible recruitment of young people by armed groups as reasons for fleeing to Uganda.
- New arrivals report ongoing clashes between armed forces in Morobu County, Yei River State. The fighting is expected to displace more people from the area, potentially leading to an increased influx into Uganda in the coming weeks.
- Refugees continue to be received at Imvepi Settlement in Arua, which now has a refugee population of 112,377.
- In response to the continued influx of refugees into northern Uganda, preparations are ongoing for the opening of Rhino Camp Extension in Arua, which is due to begin receiving new refugees in early August.
- The UK Minister of State for the Department for International Development and Minister of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Rory Stewart visited Arua settlements accompanied by UNHCR Representative to Uganda Bornwell Kantande and British High Commissioner to Uganda Peter West. They visited the Imvepi Reception Centre, Vurra Cope Primary School in Rhino Camp and a DFID-funded agricultural project to learn about the journey of a new refugee and integrated service delivery in refugee-hosting communities.



South Sudanese refugees at a food distribution in Bidi Bidi settlement, Yumbe district. ©UNHCR

UPDATE ON SITUATION

- Uganda continues to receive new arrivals from South Sudan, where the security situation remains fragile. The reasons reported by refugees for fleeing South Sudan remain consistent: fear of indiscriminate killings, looting and burning of property, torture, sexual violence, arbitrary arrest by armed forces, lack of basic services and hunger.
- Refugees continue to use informal border points to in Adjumani, Moyo and Lamwo to reach safety in Uganda, with many having travelled for several days through the bush in order to avoid the armed groups who have reportedly set up roadblocks along the main roads to the border.

Protection

Achievements and Impact

- **Registration:** Biometric registration of refugees continued in Arua, with 8,215 individuals biometrically registered in Bidibidi, 2,520 refugees biometrically registered in Rhino Camp and 2,479 in Imvepi settlement.
- **Child Protection:** Identification of children at risk is ongoing across all settlements, with vulnerable children being referred to the appropriate services according to their needs, including medical, psychosocial counselling and family tracing services. In Adjumani, group dialogues were held with 330 primary school children on forms of child abuse, children's rights, the role of boys and girls in identifying their protection needs and challenges, participation of children in prevention and response to child abuse and knowledge of reporting and referral pathways.
- **Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV):** SGBV cases continue to be identified and followed up across the settlements. Following concerns raised by women about SGBV risks in Bidibidi Zone 3, group discussions were organised to address safety issues and minimise risks. The discussions mobilised communities to clear bushes, neighborhood watches to continue with patrols and community members to be more vigilant. In Adjumani, the community watch group and activists are carrying out SGBV response and prevention by going door to door educating the community on the causes and effects of SGBV. In Palorinya, 20 street solar lights and thirteen solar panels were installed in Zones I and II to improve security and reduce the risk of SGBV incidents at night.
- **Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs):** Partners continue to identify particularly vulnerable community members across the settlements, the majority of whom are elderly, persons with disabilities, pregnant women and single parent households. Once identified, they are provided with support according to their needs, including medical care, legal support, psychosocial counselling, provision of sanitary materials and assistance with shelter construction.

Identified needs and remaining gaps

- **Registration:** Network interruptions and staffing gaps must be addressed to accelerate the registration process.
- **Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV):** There is a need to increase security lighting in Bidibidi, particularly in areas where women and girls collect firewood, to reduce the risk of SGBV incidents at night.
- **Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs):** Temporary infrastructure and PSN shelters need to be replaced by permanent or semi-permanent structures – this is particularly urgent given prevailing harsh weather conditions.

Education

Achievements and Impact

- In Adjumani, an accelerated learning program for secondary education will target students who have dropped out of school and those who cannot afford tuition fees, improving access to secondary education in Adjumani district. The program will be launched on the 19th of July at the district headquarters.
- In Arua, partners provided educational materials and interviewed applicants from Rhino Camp for 100 slots allocated to refugees at Ofua Secondary School.

Identified needs and remaining gaps

- Access to secondary schools is a challenge across the settlements as enrolment figures continue to increase, with the majority of refugee children arriving in Uganda without their original primary school leaving certificates.

- Across the settlements, ongoing construction of additional classrooms in order to reduce congestion in classrooms and improve the quality of learning. Existing classrooms require repair and upgrade.
- Access to safe water at educational facilities must be improved to ensure attendance; additional handwashing facilities and latrines are required to improve sanitation and hygiene at schools.



Food Security and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

- In northern Uganda, UNHCR and partners continued to support feeding programmes for children aged 6-59 months old and pregnant and lactating mothers in all settlements.
- A 30-day dry food ration is provided to all registered refugees who have been relocated to their respective plots, while hot meals are provided at the reception centre and high energy biscuits are provided at the collection points.
- Nutrition screening activities were conducted at health facilities, community contact points, border points and reception centres. The rate of malnutrition was 2% among refugees screened at Rhino Camp; 3.1% at Imvepi Reception Centre; 2% in Palorinya and 13.6% in Adjumani, compared to the UNHCR standard of less than 10%.

Identified needs and remaining gaps

- A multi-sectoral response is required to address rising malnutrition rates in the settlements, exacerbated by factors including disruptions in the food pipeline and high incidence of malaria and acute watery diarrhea.
- In response to the high defaulter rate in the supplementary feeding programme, there is a need to accelerate identification and follow-up of defaulters through Village Health Teams.



Health

Achievements and Impact

- As in previous reports, the leading causes of illness across all settlements were malaria, respiratory tract infections and acute watery diarrhea.
- In all settlements, health facilities continue to provide maternal health services to expectant women and new mothers, delivering babies and working to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV. New mothers are provided with dignity kits containing baby clothes, hygiene and other items. Mother and baby areas have been established to raise mothers' awareness of feeding infants and young children in an emergency.
- Health partners provided outpatient and inpatient services and referred patients who required more specialized treatment to hospitals in Arua and elsewhere. Through counselling, testing and condom distribution, partners continued their effort to prevent HIV infection in both refugee and host communities. HIV-positive patients receive medication and outreach and mobile clinic services are also provided.

Identified needs and remaining gaps

- Inadequate medical supplies, including drugs, medical equipment and administrative materials, remains a challenge throughout the settlements.
- In Bidibidi, nine health care facilities damaged by strong winds continue to deliver healthcare services in the temporary structures as they await urgently needed repairs. Eight motorcycles (two per zone) are needed for outreach activities.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Achievements and Impact

- **Water:** Access to safe water stands at 17 litres/person/day (l/p/d) in Bidibidi, 15.2 l/p/d in Adjumani settlements and 12.9 l/p/d in Rhino Camp, compared to the UNHCR standard of 20 l/p/d.
- **Sanitation:** Household latrine coverage stands at 47% in Bidibidi and 79.7% in Adjumani.

- **Hygiene:** Hygiene awareness raising campaigns were carried out across the settlements, reaching 8,357 (2,406 male and 5,951 female) individuals in Adjumani and 1,782 (1,050 female and 732 male) individuals in Palorinya.

Identified needs and remaining gaps

- There is a need to drill high yield boreholes, motorise and connect them to the water system, tower, and piped distribution network.
- Findings from a recently concluded survey Ofua villages, Arua, revealed inadequate hygiene practices mainly due to lack of soap for the general population and lack of hygiene kits for women in the reproductive age group. More awareness raising and soap distribution is required.



Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

Achievements and Impact

- Across the settlements, livelihood activities are ongoing, including distribution of seedlings for planting and agricultural training, establishment of farming groups, identification of arable land for farming and vocational training for income-generating activities.

Identified needs and remaining gaps

- In Arua, access to adequate land for crop production remains a big challenge to refugees in Ofua zone. Additionally, it is important to ensure that Farmer Field School groups have adequate seed and cassava cuttings for their projects.
- Heavy rains have rendered roads impassable, making it difficult for some farming groups to gain access to the plots of land they have been offered by the host community for cultivation.

The South Sudan Emergency Response in Uganda is coordinated jointly by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

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Links:

[Uganda Refugee Response Portal](#)
[UNHCR Uganda Facebook Page](#)
[South Sudan Regional Portal](#)
[News story: Burundian nurse cares, and is cared for, in Uganda](#)