

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).

13,092

Number of new arrivals between 8th and 14th February 2017

1,870

Daily average of new arrivals between 8th and 14th February 2017

745,472

Total number of South Sudanese refugees in Uganda

PRIORITIES

- Expedite the registration and relocation exercise in Palorinya
 - 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.
- 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 | 8TH – 14TH FEBRUARY 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

- The rate of new arrivals in to Uganda remains very high, with a total of 13,092 South Sudanese refugees received in Uganda between the 1st and 7th of February, although this is a decrease from the 33,427 new arrivals reported in the previous week. The average daily rate of new arrivals was 1,870.
- Refugees reported fleeing South Sudan due to fear of escalating violence, including sexual violence, lack of hope that the situation in the country will improve, limited access to food and basic services, and a general lack of security creating an environment of "lawlessness".
- Refugees arriving from South Sudan report that fire is being used to clear the bush, and the population have been urged to move to towns and cities, with anyone found in the countryside being charged with supporting the opposing groups. Most refugees are forced to travel in the dark for greater security. Many report having made the journey to Uganda in groups of relatives or neighbours, either on foot or paying for their passage to the border in trucks and other vehicles.
- New arrivals continue to be relocated to Palorinya settlement in Moyo district, which is now home to 129,024 South Sudanese refugees.
- In light of the ongoing mass influx from South Sudan, preparations are underway for a new refugee settlement in Imvepi, Arua district, and reception facilities are being developed in Lamwo district, where an increase in new arrivals has been noted.
- General food distribution in Bidibidi settlement was interrupted by a security incident on the 9th of February, which has since been settled by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), allowing food distribution to resume on the 10th.
- In Bidibidi, 42 community mobilizers have been recruited and trained on the procedure and registration of persons with specific needs in the villages. These teams are screening and registering the particularly vulnerable community members in each village.



Community Sensitisation Meeting in Ofua II, Arua. Feb 2017. Photo: UNHCR/U. Maung.

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.
- 2,577 new arrival South Sudanese Refugees were reported at Elegu Collection Point in Adjumani district from 6-12 February, up from 1,883 reported in the previous week. Moyo district received 6,783 refugees, a substantial decrease from 17,640 new arrivals in the previous week, and 516 refugees were reported in Lamwo district compared to 408 new arrivals in the previous week. All new arrivals were relocated to Palorinya Refugee Settlement in Moyo district.

Protection

- **Persons with Specific Needs (PSN):** In Bidibidi, 96 PSNs in Zone 5 were supported with non-food items, and 454 PSNs in Zone 2 were assisted with access during food distribution. Emergency shelter was constructed and allocated to fourteen PSNs in Zones 1 and 4 – the low number of shelters constructed can be attributed to a lack of poles available in the warehouse. In Palorinya, identification of PSNs has been ongoing during Level II registration in Zone III. Additional staff were deployed to assist extremely vulnerable individuals requiring expedited registration. An assessment will be conducted next week with the aim of verifying and updating the existing data on PSNs in the settlement in order to plan the delivery of effective support.
- **Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) Response:** In Bidibidi, nineteen cases of sexual and gender-based violence were reported, the majority of which were physical assault perpetrated by partners and close family members. All survivors were provided with the appropriate support, including legal, medical and psychosocial services and mediations. One perpetrator with mental illness was referred for medical and mental health assessment.
- **Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) Prevention:** In Bidibidi, 104 community outreach activities, including drama performances, meeting with women leaders, youth and men, peer education and door to door visits, were conducted across all zones, reaching 6,578 (4,483 female and 2,095 male) community members. In Palorinya settlement, community awareness sessions on SGBV prevention and response were conducted in Zones I, II and III. A total of 780 (332 male and 448 female) refugees participated. Topics covered included the definition, types, causes and effects of SGBV, and the referral pathway.
- **Child Protection:** In Bidibidi, 29 foster parents have received cash grants, which they have used for investments such as buying clothes and animals to sell. The children expressed satisfaction with their foster families and the positive impact of the cash grants on family life. In Moyo, 40 unaccompanied children were placed in foster care and family tracing and reunification services were provided to seven children. In Adjumani, 43 children were received from an orphanage in Kajo-Keji, South Sudan along with their 38 caretakers. The children were given best interest assessments and screened for malnutrition, with four severely malnourished children referred for further assessment. They will be settled in Mireyi where they can easily access services in Adjumani town, and supported with core relief items, clothing and PSN shelter construction.

Education

- The new school year commenced on 6th February 2017, and schools have reopened across the settlements.
- **Reistration:** In Bidibidi, total enrolment of children in schools stands at 48,429 (26,783 male and 21,646 female), with 38,312 (20,626 male and 17,686 female) enrolled in Primary schools, 6,091 (4,058 male and 2,033 female) enrolled in Secondary and 4,026 (2,099 male and 1,927 female) enrolled in Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres.
- **Recruitment:** In Bidibidi, 312 applicants for primary school teachers have been shortlisted, with interviews scheduled for this week to be conducted Yumbe District Education Department.



Health

- **Morbidity:** In Bidibidi, 10,316 outpatient consultations were conducted, among which 14% were members of the host population. The leading causes of illness were malaria (24%), respiratory tract infections (23%) and Acute Watery Diarrhea (8%). As in the previous week, three cases of dysentery were reported. In Adjumani, the Malaria incidence rate declined by 10% compared to the previous week due to the ongoing dry spell, accounting for 36% of outpatient consultations, followed by respiratory tract infections (21%) and Acute Watery Diarrhea (2.8%). In Moyo, 7,277 outpatient consultations were conducted, with the leading causes of illness being malaria (27%), respiratory tract infections (23%) and Acute Watery Diarrhea (12%).
- **Mental health:** In Bidibidi, 196 mental health cases were registered in the settlement and are being followed up. A mental health working group was formed and had their first meeting in Zone 1. Community interventions of awareness raising, group therapy sessions and follow up visits are ongoing.
- **Immunisation:** In Moyo, 12,450 individuals were medically screened at Lefori and Afogi collection points 1,855 children were immunized against measles, 2,275 were immunized against polio, 194 pregnant women immunized against Tetanus, 1,855 children received Vitamin A supplements and 10,885 were given deworming tablets.



Food Security and Nutrition

- In Bidibidi, a total of 2,515 children aged 6-59 months are in the feeding programs; 25 pregnant and lactating women have also been identified and enrolled in the nutrition program. A total of 2,312 under-fives are enrolled in the nutrition centres in Bidibidi for rehabilitation.
- During the week, the defaulter rate among under-fives in the supplementary feeding program in Bidibidi was estimated at 17.2%. This default rate can partly be attributed to the continuous movement of refugees between the zones of the settlement. Efforts to follow up with defaulters and track their movements are ongoing, and Village Health Teams continue to engage in supporting tracing and follow up of defaulters.
- In Moyo, 32 severely malnourished and 104 moderately malnourished refugees were identified. This translates to a Global Acute Malnutrition rate of 8% for zone 1 (through mass screening) and 14% for all the health facilities across the settlement, with a recovery rate of 67% for severe acute malnutrition and 50% for moderate acute malnutrition.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

- **Water:** Access to safe water stands at an average of 14 litres per person per day (l/p/d) across the zones of Bidibidi and 18 l/p/d in Adjumani, against the standard of 20 l/p/d.
- **Sanitation:** Latrine coverage stands at 42% in Bidibidi and remains at 66% in Adjumani.
- **Hygiene:** In Bidibidi, the ratio of hygiene promoters to refugees stands at 1:513, compared to the UNHCR standard of 1:500.



Shelter, Infrastructure and Distribution

- **Distribution:** Refugees who arrived in Palorinya Settlement after 31 January 2017 have not received essential relief items due to depleted stocks. 52,356 individuals have been affected by this.
- Plots have been allocated to refugees in Palorinya Zone I Extension. However shelter kits are not available for the construction of protective shelters. Critical gaps in the stock include blankets, kitchen sets, plastic sheets, sleeping mats, nets, shelter kits (except poles) and sanitary materials.
- To manage expectations, meetings have been held with community members to inform them of the current situation. 6,632 jerry cans and 4,660 kitchen sets were received, and items distributed to refugees in the settlement between 26th and 30th January 2017. Work is ongoing to address this challenge.

OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Protection:** Ongoing support to local leaders, Refugee Welfare Councils and other committee members who maintain peaceful coexistence in Bidibidi settlement. 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. Increase presence of law enforcement officers to ensure security. 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. Supply schools with handwashing facilities to ensure good hygiene for students.
- **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. Reliable solar lighting at health facilities to ensure provision of health services at night. One ambulance and a double cabin pickup to support integrated health and nutrition programming are required in Moyo.
- **Food Security and Nutrition:** Increase nutrition programme coverage in all the Zones (particularly Zones 3 and 5) to address malnutrition. Overall capacity building regarding awareness, promotion and protection of nutrition programmes, quality community outreach program and nutrition surveillance. Ongoing construction of nutrition units in health facilities.
- **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene:** Piped water systems are required for all zones of Bidibidi. Improved latrine coverage and additional handwashing facilities at household level, followed up with monitoring and sensitisation on sanitation and hygiene. Decommissioning of communal latrines.
- **Shelter, Infrastructure and Distribution:** Ensure an emergency stock of relief items and procurement of items available locally. Timely delivery of a complete stock of relief items in Palorinya.

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Links:

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