

## 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).

**41,378**

Number of new arrivals between 1<sup>st</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> March 2017

**2,956**

Daily average of new arrivals between 1<sup>st</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> March 2017

**805,704**

Total number of South Sudanese refugees in Uganda

## PRIORITIES

- Ensure basic services for new arrivals as well support to persons with specific needs
- Accelerate biometric registration
- Identify new sites for refugee settlement
- 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. 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 UPDATE | 1<sup>ST</sup> – 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2017

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The rate of new arrivals in to Uganda has increased, with a total of 41,378 South Sudanese refugees received in Uganda in the two weeks between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of March, compared to 18,854 in the previous two weeks. An average of 2,956 refugees crossed the border from South Sudan into Uganda each day, with 5,116 recorded in a single day on 9<sup>th</sup> March.
- Refugees arriving in Uganda, the majority of whom are women and children, continue to report general insecurity, limited access to food and basic services, violence, rape and abuse of women and girls, arbitrary detention and indiscriminate killing and destruction of property by armed forces as reasons for fleeing their homes in South Sudan.
- New arrivals continue to be relocated to Imvepi settlement in Arua district, which is now home to 19,721 South Sudanese refugees.
- In Lamwo district, the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) obtained a written agreement from the landowners of Ogili Sub-County in Palabek for the use of their land for refugee settlement. The land has capacity to host approximately 30,000 persons, and talks are ongoing with landowners in neighbouring sub-counties to expand the site in order to increase capacity. Site planning and assessment of the proposed site are ongoing.
- Pending full scale readiness of a new settlement in Lamwo district, Palorinya Reception Centre continues to receive refugees from Elegu, Afogi and Lefori border points, mostly persons with special needs and refugees seeking reunification with their family members in Palorinya settlement.
- International Women's Day was celebrated across the settlements on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March. Under the theme of 'Be Bold for Change: Women in the Changing World of Work' refugee women and girls led celebratory activities including radio talk shows, music, dance, drama and cultural performances and speeches by refugees, local government and humanitarian actors.



*International Women's Day celebrations at Itula Secondary School, Palorinya.  
Photo ©UNHCR/ J. Nakabuubi & J.Maina*

## UPDATE ON SITUATION

### Protection

- **Protection Interviews:** New arrivals reported fleeing the country due to the worsening security situation in South Sudan, citing incidents of looting, killing, abduction of youths and harassment of civilians by armed groups. Some refugees also mentioned that they were forced to leave the country as social services like health and education are inaccessible due to the ongoing fighting, while others lacked the required finances to access these services. Refugees interviewed at Lamwo cited clashes between armed groups, particularly in Torit and Kapoeta, forcing people in the affected areas to cross to Uganda for safety.
- **Persons with Specific Needs (PSN):** In Imvepi, identification of vulnerable refugees in need of shelter assistance is ongoing; 495 PSN shelters have been constructed and allocated. In Bidibidi, shoes were distributed to 7,460 PSNs with different vulnerabilities and 160 PSN shelters were constructed. In Adjumani, sixteen PSNs were assessed to identify their needs and supported with non-food items, and home visits were conducted for 93 PSNs across the settlements.
- **Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) Response:** In Imvepi, 39 SGBV cases were identified, of which 32 occurred in South Sudan). All survivors received psychological first aid counselling at the women and girls safe space and will be followed up. In Bidibidi, 20 new cases of sexual and gender-based violence were reported and the survivors supported with the appropriate medical, psychosocial and legal services. All cases of sexual and physical violence were reported to the police and four perpetrators were apprehended. In Adjumani, 28 SGBV cases were reported; the survivors supported and two perpetrators prosecuted.
- **Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) Prevention:** In Imvepi, 1,502 (977 female and 525 male) refugees were reached through 48 SGBV community outreach sessions, and women and girls were sensitised on the use of sanitary pads. Awareness campaigns on prevention and response to SGBV were conducted across Palorinya Settlement reaching 6,354 individuals (2,806 male and 3,548 female) with information disseminated on the definition of SGBV, its types, causes, effects, the referral pathway and relevant laws applicable in Uganda. In Bidibidi, International Women's Day was celebrated by 2,421 people across twelve women's centres.
- **Child Protection:** In Imvepi, 103 children at risk were identified and referred for services including psychosocial counselling, food and shelter assistance, and twelve child protection awareness sessions were conducted at the reception centre. In Palorinya, 74 children at risk were identified and assisted. In Adjumani, 195 unaccompanied children from the settlements of Pagirinya and Boroli will be supported with monthly cash grants of UGX 150,000 per month for one year. The cash will help them with maintenance costs to reduce the burden on foster parents.

### Education

- In Imvepi, community mobilisation for school enrolment has commenced and a site has been cleared for establishment of a new primary school in Zone 2.
- In Bidibidi, 51,774 children are enrolled in primary education, 7,075 in secondary education and 7,312 enrolled in Early Childhood Development.
- In Palorinya, 13,380 children have been registered for Early Childhood Development (ECD) classes and recruitment of 66 caregivers finalised. 34,430 children (17,572 male and 16,858 female) have been registered for primary education, of which 12,832 have been enrolled. 12,415 children (6,869 male and 5,546 female) children have registered for secondary education, of which 1,899 have been enrolled in Itula Secondary School (93% refugees). 2,333 youth are registered for vocational training.

### Health

- **Morbidity:** The leading causes of illness across the settlements were malaria, which accounted for 16% of all outpatient consultation in Bidibidi, 22% in Adjumani and 16% in Palorinya; respiratory tract infections, which

accounted for 32% of all outpatient consultations in Bidibidi, 25% in Adjumani and 18% in Palorinya, and Acute Watery Diarrhea, which accounted for 8% in Bidibidi, 2% in Adjumani and 18% in Palorinya.

- **Immunisation:** In Imvepi, 6,573 children were immunised against polio, 14,890 against measles, and 4,500 received Tenatun Toxoid, Vitamin A and deworming.



## Food Security and Nutrition

- In Imvepi, 5,689 children under five were screened for malnutrition, of which fifteen were severely malnourished and 71 were moderately malnourished. 1,005 pregnant and lactating women were also screened, of which 55 were moderately malnourished. All were referred for treatment.
- In Adjumani, 84 children were discharged from the feeding program, having regained their health. 795 acutely malnourished and 1,260 moderately malnourished children are still enrolled in the program.
- In Bidibidi, a total of 2,192 children aged 6-59 months are in the feeding programs; 221 pregnant and lactating women have also been identified and enrolled in the nutrition program. A total of 1,811 under-fives are enrolled in the nutrition centres in Bidibidi for rehabilitation.



## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

- **Water:** Access to safe water stands at an average of 16 litres per person per day (l/p/d) across the zones of Bidibidi, 16 l/p/d in Imvepi, 22 l/p/d in Palorinya and 18 l/p/d in Adjumani, against the emergency standard of 15 l/p/d. Borehole drilling and repairs are ongoing to increase the availability of safe water in all settlements.
- **Sanitation:** Household latrine coverage stands at 47% in Bidibidi and 68% in Adjumani. In Imvepi, 150 communal latrines have been completed with another 125 in progress.
- **Hygiene:** In Imvepi, 27 hygiene promoters and ten supervisors have been recruited. The ratio of hygiene promoters to refugees stands at 1:513 in Bidibidi and 1:655 in Adjumani, compared to the UNHCR standard of 1:500. In Palorinya, hygiene awareness sessions were conducted in Zones II and III, reaching 486 refugees.



## Shelter, Infrastructure and Distribution

- **Shelter:** In newly opened Imvepi settlement, a total of 2,066 plots have been allocated to 1,946 families.
- **Infrastructure:** In Imvepi, 132.5 km of road has been opened, and work is ongoing to open additional roads.
- **Distribution:** Refugees are provided with a package of essential household items upon relocation to the settlements, as well as shelter construction kits. Women and girls are also provided with monthly packages of sanitary materials, underwear and soap to promote menstrual hygiene.

## OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Protection:** Biometric registration must be accelerated. In Palorinya, transport is urgently required to improve security, access to services for persons with disabilities and family tracing. In Bidibidi, repair temporary facilities damaged by weather, address gaps in youth programming. In Imvepi, expand services and awareness raising on services for PSNs, strengthen SGBV case management mechanisms and recruit local language translators.
- **Education:** Rehabilitation of eroded school structures and construction of additional schools, especially permanent school structures. Additional teachers and classroom assistants are required to improve pupil to teacher ratios. In Bidibidi Zones 3, 4 and 5, there is an urgent need to install water storage tanks in primary schools.
- **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. In Additional stocks of anti-malarial drugs, vaccines and other medical

supplies. One ambulance and construction of maternal health facilities are required in Palorinya. In Bidibidi, additional ambulances and motorbikes to increase health service coverage.

- **Food Security and Nutrition:** In Bidibidi, ongoing construction of nutrition units in health facilities. In Imvepi, temporary shelters at distribution sites to protect vulnerable refugees from weather conditions, upgrade roads, establish permanent food storage facilities and map distribution sites. Challenges remain in the food pipeline.
- **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene:** Improved latrine coverage at household level in Bidibidi. Additional boreholes, water tanks and communal latrines in Palorinya. In Imvepi, explore high water gravity system, establish a fuel station at Imvepi base and continue to monitor water quality.
- **Shelter, Infrastructure and Distribution:** In Palorinya, replenishment of stocks of soap for handwashing, cleaning of water storage containers, and sanitary materials for women and girls of reproductive age are urgently required. In Imvepi, ensure PSN shelters are accessible for water, sanitation and hygiene facilities.

**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:**

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