11,215 refugees fled to Uganda from South Sudan between the 23rd and 29th of November. The arrival rate remains high, peaking at 3,287 on the 24th of November.

As of 28th of November, the refugee population of Bidibidi Settlement stands at 240,721 persons, which is beyond its carrying capacity.

A new settlement site in Moyo District is under development to begin receiving refugees next week.

Increasing numbers of refugees are relocated from border entry points to Rhino Settlement, pending opening of new sites.

The majority of South Sudanese refugees arrive in Uganda through informal border points. A number also reach the country having travelled through the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Biometric registration of refugees is ongoing in Zone 2 of Bidibidi Settlement.

Refugees’ reported reasons for fleeing South Sudan include extreme violence and indiscriminate killings; ethnically motivated killings; extortion and detention; rape and sexual abuse of women and girls; forced recruitment of boys and men; demand for information and false accusation of civilians, including women and minors; attacks on homes, often at night; looting and burning of villages, property and livestock; hunger and lack of access to food, medication and basic services; inflation and the soaring cost of living.

On the 25th of November, the German Ambassador to Uganda visited Kuluba, Yumbe and Bidibidi Reception Centre and Zone 4, where he engaged with newly arrived and relocated refugees. The Ambassador also visited Yumbe Hospital and was briefed by the Medical Officer in charge.

30 youths from both refugee and host communities took part in The Adjumani Design Challenge 2016, a youth empowerment project in Adjumani district. They identified challenges affecting their communities in areas such as education, health, early marriage and farming, and presented locally available solutions for resolving these challenges. The winning groups were awarded UGX 1,000,000 to implement their solutions at community level, with the other groups receiving UGX 250,000.
The majority of refugees arriving in Uganda originate from the Equatoria Region of South Sudan with many from Yei, Morobo, Lainya, Kajo-Keji and adjacent areas. Refugees report that due to insecurity in the country they are unable to use the main roads to the border and are forced to walk through the bush for up to several days to reach Uganda, usually with few belongings and limited access to food, water and other necessities.

More than 1,800 South Sudanese refugees reached Uganda through the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Refugees interviewed reported roadblocks and insecurity between Morobo and Kaya as reasons for travelling though DRC. According to refugees, they left DRC for Uganda due to lack of available facilities and basic services, as well as the language barrier.

570 new arrivals were reported at Elegu Collection Point between the 22nd and 28th of November, down from 611 in the previous week. 57 refugees were reported in Lamwo district, an increase from two in the previous week.

A meeting took place in Adjumani on 28th November to discuss the preparedness of Palorinya Settlement of Moyo district to receive refugees. All the agencies to be involved in the emergency response, as well as Moyo district authorities, expressed their readiness to receive refugees in the new settlement. The settlement has a capacity of over 200,000, and the relocation is likely to start from the first week of December.

**Protection**

- **Persons with Specific Needs (PSN):** In Adjumani, 333 particularly vulnerable refugees were assessed to identify their needs. Construction of 25 shelters for PSNs is ongoing in Pagirinya settlement. In Bidibidi, 547 PSNs (480 female and 67 male) were identified and registered in Zone 5, with the majority being elderly persons and women at risk (pregnant, lactating and single parents). All PSNs were assisted with non-food items, transportation to their plots and construction of shelter and 109 PSNs were provided with food assistance. A total of 403 shelters were constructed and allocated to PSNs across all zones of Bidibidi.

- **Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV):** The 16 Days of Activism campaign against gender-based violence was commemorated with a number of activities in Adjumani and Bidibidi settlements. Both refugee and host communities participated in events including radio shows, cultural performances, school essay writing and drawing competitions and public speeches, with the objective of spreading messages against gender-based violence, and specific emphasis on supporting equal access to education, banning early marriage and putting an end to violent relationships.

- In Bidibidi, 32 sexual and gender-based violence cases were reported, with the majority of cases being physical violence and denial of resources, bringing the total of SGBV cases reported in Bidibidi to 224. Improvement of screening in the Reception Centre, including daily focus group meetings with women and girls and continuous outreach activities has contributed to the slight increase of reported cases in Bidibidi Zone 5. Response services were provided to all survivors, including through community leaders engaged in mediation of cases involving intimate partner violence and denial of access to resources. In all mediation sessions, volunteers were present to ensure that interventions were based on a survivor-centred approach.

- **Child Protection:** In Adjumani, 45 best interest assessments were conducted for unaccompanied and separated children. The needs identified were education, shelter, food, family tracing and reunification, and will be followed up. 150 children were supported with psychological first aid and counselling in different settlements of Adjumani. Out of 90 unaccompanied minors initially identified in newly opened Agojo refugee settlement, 57 have been reunited with their relatives. The remaining 33 unaccompanied minors will be placed in foster care.

- In Bidibidi, a total of 172 children at risk were identified, including 166 unaccompanied and separated Children (80 unaccompanied and 86 separated children) and six cases of children at other types of risk. The total number of unaccompanied and separated children identified in Bidibidi is 2,588. 50 unaccompanied and separated children were referred for follow up; among these, 47 in need of shelter, two for family tracing and one was referred for medical treatment. 97 children were monitored through home visits. A total of 1,180 children have been identified for foster care; selection of foster families is conducted at the time of identification and relocation, and monitoring of children in foster care continues. 15 unaccompanied and separated children were reunited with their families. Construction of eighteen Child Friendly Spaces commenced in the settlement.
In Bidibidi, mobile audio information sharing through the ‘Boda Boda Talk Talk’ communication system continued in Zone 1 and has been scaled up to include Zones 2, 3 and 4. To support the 16 Days of Activism campaign, pre-recorded messages developed by the sexual and gender-based violence working group are being aired.

Education

In Adjumani, the overall enrolment rate in primary education is 70% in all settlements, 5.5% for secondary and 69% for Early Childhood Development. Scholarship opportunities are being sought to increase the enrollment rate for secondary education. In Bidibidi, there are a total of 27,210 children in ten schools in Zones 1 and 2, with construction of additional schools underway in Zones 3 and 4. 408 girls aged 14-24 who had dropped out of school were identified for support.

Primary school: In Bidibidi, 20,567 children (10,931 male and 9,636 female) are enrolled in primary schools. A total of 893 (605M, 288F) candidates were registered across the schools in Zone 1 and 2. Three existing schools were identified in the Zone 5 area which will enrol refugee students for the next year academic year and will in turn be supported with scholastic and teaching materials. Final distribution of 1,600 bags and 2400 sanitary pads (to girls of menstrual age) was carried out in the schools of Zone 1. Guidance and counselling sessions were expanded to primary schools in Zone 1 with special focus on importance of girls’ education and prevention of SGBV.

Secondary school: In Bidibidi, 2,066 children (1,635 male and 431 female) are enrolled in secondary school. 98% of students (2,022 of 2,066) attended the first end-of-term exam paper.

Early Childhood Development (ECD): In Bidibidi, 4,577 (2,297 male and 2,280 female) are enrolled in Early Childhood Development centres. Community sensitization was conducted in Zone 1 urge parents to send their children to school on a daily basis. Two additional Centre Management Committees were formed in this Zone to further engage parents and communities in understanding the role of the ECD centres.

Health

In Adjumani, five deaths including two under-fives were reported. The under-fives died of malaria and malnutrition respectively, while the others died of stroke, AIDS and tuberculosis. The leading causes of illness were malaria (43%), respiratory tract infections (21%) and watery diarrhea (1%).

In Bidibidi, a total of 10,473 medical consultations were conducted. The leading causes of illness were malaria (33%), Acute Respiratory Tract Infections (22%) and Acute Watery Diarrhea (11%). Seven cases of dysentery were reported in the refugee settlement with no cases in Zone 1; four cases in Zone 2; zero cases in Zones 3 and 4 and three cases in Zone 5. This is a five-fold reduction compared to the previous week, when 36 cases were registered.

A total of 47 mental health cases were registered in the settlement (25 males and 22 females); 25 of these were new cases and 22 were re-visits; this reflects an increase of 17.5% compared to 40 cases registered in previous week.

Food Security and Nutrition

In Adjumani, 87 children aged 6-59 months were screened for malnutrition. Of these, one had severe acute malnutrition and two had moderate acute malnutrition.

Border screening: In Elegu, 123 refugees were screened for malnutrition; three were diagnosed with moderate acute malnutrition and one with severe acute malnutrition. In Busia, 347 refugees were screened; fourteen were diagnosed with moderate acute malnutrition and one with severe acute malnutrition. In Kuluba, 1,197 refugees were screened; 29 were diagnosed with moderate acute malnutrition and nine with severe acute malnutrition. From Elegu, Kuluba, and Busia screening sites, supplementary feeding was provided to 46 moderate acute malnutrition cases identified.

Blanket Supplementary Feeding Program: The first round of Blanket Supplementary Feeding Program for pregnant and lactating women was completed in Zone 3. 803 women were registered, and corn soya blend was distributed to 688 Pregnant and lactating women and 504 children aged 6-59 months.

Targeted Supplementary Feeding Program: In Adjumani, 182 new moderate acute malnutrition admissions were recorded and 190 were discharged. 543 people received food supplements under the program during the week. In Rhino camp, 42 moderate acute malnutrition admissions were recorded and 24 were discharged. In Bidibidi, 245 clients with moderate acute malnutrition and a total of 655 refugees received nutritional support.
Mother and child health and nutrition program: In Adjumani, 1,134 pregnant and lactating women and 916 children aged 6-23 months were supported. In Rhino camp, 625 pregnant and lactating women and 259 children aged 6-23 months were supported. In Kyineandongo, 597 pregnant and lactating women were supported. In Adjumani, Rhino camp and Bidibidi, nutrition education was given to 4,703 women and children with various nutrition messages such as maternal nutrition during pregnancy, family planning, sanitation and hygiene, feeding a sick child, and bringing children to the health center, regular growth monitoring and deworming.

50% ration cuts for refugees who arrived before July 2015 are affecting the nutrition status of refugees. Two months since the measure was implemented, there has been an observable increase in the number of new cases of acute malnutrition. There is a need for reassessment of the food security of refugees who arrived before July 2015 to identify those that may need 100% food aid.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

In Adjumani, the availability of safe water is 17 litres per person per day across all settlements. In Agojo, water is being trucked from Pagirinya Refugee Settlement to meet the water needs of the refugees as availability of groundwater is very limited in Agojo. Four boreholes have been successfully drilled in the settlement, so the water trucking is expected to decrease in the coming days. The ratio of hygiene promoters is 1:568 across all settlements in Adjumani, which is below the UNHCR standard of 1:500 persons.

In Adjumani, five community-based hygiene awareness sessions were conducted in Pagirinya and Agojo settlements to promote positive hygiene behaviours, in which 842 (299 male and 543 female) refugees participated. 2234 (1666 female and 568 male) refugees were reached with sanitation and hygiene messages through home-to-home visits in Pagirinya and Nyumanzi settlements.

The average supply of safe water in Bidibidi stood at 8.79 litres per person per day. An additional borehole has been motorised and is supplying water for water trucking.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

Cash distribution and registration of new beneficiaries were completed in all settlements except Rhino camp. 37,370 beneficiaries received cash based transfers in Rhino, Kiryandongo, Koboko and Adjumani settlements and 3,396 beneficiaries were registered for the next cycle of cash distribution in Adjumani, Rhino camp and Kiryandongo.

Shelter, Infrastructure and Distribution

Distribution: Distribution of relief items to new arrivals is ongoing upon arrival at Bidibidi Zone 5 Reception Center. While coordination of relief item distribution is effective, challenges remain with regard to the timely replenishment of items, in particular on plastic sheets, jerry cans and kitchen sets as priority items for newly arrived refugees. Eight Police Officers have been deployed to the Reception Centre and provided with motorcycles.

Shelter/Site Planning: During reporting period, 207 new plots were allocated and 205 huts constructed for PSNs to ensure their access to services.

In Bidibidi, a total of 90,840 plots of land have been demarcated for refugees.

In Bidibidi, a total of 327.15 km of access roads have been opened to ensure refugees’ access to basic services.

OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Shelter/Site Planning: The limited supply of heavy machinery continues to impose challenges on road works and clearing of facilities. Poor installation of sample lines of culverts for easy access over streams, ditches and rough terrain continues to pose a challenge. Work is ongoing to find a way forward to expedite implementation.

Water and Sanitation: With the increase in population, water trucking operations are inadequate due to insufficient water sources and long distances for trucking. A total of 51 trucks are used for transporting water to the population in Bidibidi. Increasing latrine coverage in all zones is required including at the household level. Latrine maintenance
should also be expedited. The rehabilitation of access roads must be expedited to ensure water supply, especially after heavy rains.

- **Protection**: Shortage of construction materials for PSN shelters remains a challenge. PSNs are also in need of support with visual and hearing aids as well as wheelchairs and crutches. There is a need to strengthen foster care arrangements in Bidibidi including implementation of a more systematic approach and training of foster families.

- **Education**: Additional classrooms and greater maintenance of existing structures are required, after damage by strong winds and rain. Education to accommodate the high number of overage students should be prioritised. There is a need for the identification of learning opportunities for children with special learning needs in the settlement, as well as strengthening of girls’ enrolment and attendance at the secondary school level.

- **Health**: Two additional ambulances are required for Bibibidi. Planning and coordination is ongoing for construction of permanent health infrastructure in locations with tented health facilities. In Adjumani, mobilisation of additional resources for the upgrade of laboratory facilities at health centers is required as current facilities are inadequate.

- **Nutrition**: Continued capacity building is needed to ensure comprehensive nutrition programming and screening and referral of newly arrived refugees. There is a need to increase the nutrition program coverage in all the Zones of Bidibidi (with greater emphasis on Zones 3, 4 and 5), and to strengthen nutrition coverage to ensure that malnourished refugees are referred for treatment in a timely manner. Overall capacity building is required for awareness, promotion and protection of Infant and Young Child Feeding practices, quality community outreach and nutrition surveillance.

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**Links:**
South Sudan Regional portal - UN Refugee Chief: World must act to end South Sudan suffering