

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).

27,721

Number of new arrivals between the 14th and 20th December 2016

3,036

Daily average of new arrivals since 1st December 2016

468,979

Number of new arrivals in 2016

588,205

Total number of South Sudanese refugees in Uganda

PRIORITIES

- Establish and expand services across all sectors in newly opened Palorinya Settlement.
- Explore new sources of water to ensure a predictable and sustainable supply to the refugee population.
- Expedite opening and rehabilitation of access roads to ensure provision of basic services to refugees
- Strengthen engagement of newly-arrived organizations, local authorities and members of the host community regarding interventions in Bidibidi.

UGANDA

EMERGENCY UPDATE ON THE SOUTH SUDAN REFUGEE SITUATION

INTER-AGENCY WEEKLY | 14TH – 20TH DECEMBER 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

- **27,721 refugees were received in Uganda from South Sudan between the 14th and 20th of December. The arrival rate remains very high, with a daily average of 3,036 new arrivals since 1st December.**
- A total of 8,575 refugees were received in Bidibidi settlement.
- With the opening of Palorinya Settlement in Moyo District on 9th December, an increasing number of refugees have been relocated from border entry points to this site. So far, 22,949 refugees have been relocated to Palorinya Settlement from different collection and entry points. Refugees are also being relocated to Rhino Settlement and Ocea Reception Centre.
- The majority of South Sudanese refugees arrive in Uganda through informal border points. A new informal border entry point where refugees originating from Kajo Keji continue to arrive has been identified in Gobolo, Yumbe District. Reception facilities have been set up in Gobolo to ensure refugees' access to basic facilities including shelter, portable water, latrines, washing facilities, medical attention and transportation to settlements.
- Rehabilitation of existing boreholes to provide access to water benefiting the Ugandan host community in Gobolo is also underway.
- 1,090 South Sudanese refugees arrived through the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) bringing the total number of refugees reaching Uganda through DRC to 5,181 individuals. Refugees reported roadblocks and insecurity between Morobo and Kaya as reasons for travelling through DRC.
- There has been a notable influx of refugees from Kajo Keji district in the Equatoria region of South Sudan. Refugees indicate that they have been urged to leave the area by Christmas (25th December) as rival forces prepare to fight. Those caught outside of towns, men in particular, are allegedly accused of assisting armed groups, arrested and subsequently "disappear". Ethnic discrimination is also reported in the area.



Gobolo border entry point, Yumbe District, South Sudanese refugees arriving with luggage pulled by tractor, Dec 2016. UNHCR/M. Guma

UPDATE ON SITUATION

- The majority of refugees arriving in Uganda come from the Equatoria Region of South Sudan with many from Yei, Morobo, Lainya, Kajo-Keji and the surrounding areas. Refugees continue to report fleeing the country out of fear, citing violence, looting and indiscriminate killing of civilians through nightly attacks on homes and property, unsubstantiated accusations of collaboration with rival groups, fear of arrest and torture and lack of basic necessities.
- The number of new arrivals in Adjumani and Moyo districts increased significantly. A total of 2,075 new arrival South Sudanese Refugees were reported at Elegu Collection Point in Adjumani district between 12 and 18 December, up from 1,290 refugees the previous week. Similarly, 17,937 refugees were reported in Moyo district, up from 3,640 new arrivals in the previous week.
- In recently opened Palorinya settlement, identification of particularly vulnerable refugees, sexual and gender-based violence awareness raising and provision of psychosocial support are ongoing. A child protection desk is being established. Clinical health services, mental health first aid and other services for minor illness are being provided at the reception centre, while severely ill refugees are being referred to Palorinya Health Centre III. Inter-agency coordination meetings are taking place on a weekly basis to ensure ongoing provision of services.

Protection

- In Bidibidi settlement, biometric registration continues in Zone 3 in cooperation with the Refugee Welfare Council.
- **Child Protection:** In Adjumani, best interest assessments were conducted for 28 children at risk in different settlements of Adjumani district. The children were provided with immediate material support and referred for follow up. In Bidibidi, a total of 723 children at risk were identified, bringing the total number of children at risk identified in Bidibidi to 2,928. 49 children were referred for shelter and 44 were monitored through home visits. A total of 1,281 children have been identified for foster care in Bidibidi, and training of foster families across the five zones is ongoing. Construction of 25 Child Friendly Spaces is underway and will be 80% complete by the end of December.
- **Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs):** In Adjumani, 133 (48 male and 85 female) PSNs have been identified and assessed in Pagirinya refugee settlement to ascertain their vulnerabilities and needs for support. These PSNs will be supported according to their needs, which range from immediate material support to construction of shelters. In Bidibidi, a total of 793 PSNs (749 female and 44 male) were identified, the majority of which were elderly persons and women at risk (single parents and pregnant women), in addition to 54 persons with disabilities. The total number of PSNs identified in Bidibidi Settlement stands at 19,551. 365 shelters were constructed and allocated to PSNs across the zones, 598 PSNs received assistance at the food distribution sites in Zone 3 and 921 were provided with relief items through targeted assistance.
- **Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) Response:** In Adjumani, three SGBV cases were followed up. They were taken for treatment in Adjumani hospital and relocated to a protection house after treatment. Three domestic violence survivors were identified and counselled, and four survivors were supported with soap, bedding and other items to improve their hygiene. In Bidibidi, 24 cases of SGBV were reported, bringing the cumulative number of SGBV cases reported in the settlement to 267; most of the alleged perpetrators were partners or persons within the family or neighborhood. The majority of cases were physical assault, denial of resources and psychological or emotional abuse. Services and follow-up are provided based on a multi-sectoral and inter-agency approach.
- **Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) Prevention:** 87 women from Loketa Women Centre in Bidibidi Zone 3 participated in life skills training, and the income generated is to be used for future collective investments. The women expressed the need for an increase in the number of Women Centres and outreach activities – there are currently thirteen Women Centres in Bidibidi. 203 women and adolescent girls participated in sexual and reproductive health awareness sessions; there is a need to engage men and adolescent boys, specifically in family planning and condom use. 37 (27 male and ten female) community leaders participated in a training on SGBV prevention and response in Bidibidi Zone 4, with a focus on key principles, reporting, mediation and how to ensure a survivor-centred approach.
- **Community Based Protection:** In Bidibidi, a youth football tournament took place in Zone 3 with the participation of 155 youth (30 female and 125 male). In Zone 1, the first round of a ‘cultural dance gala’ competition was organized

for fourteen villages, and the final competition of the gala was conducted in village 10, where eight groups from different tribes performed their cultural dances.

- **Protection Information and Counseling Desks (PICD):** There are a total of 28 PICDs throughout Bidibidi Settlement, with seven in Zone 1; five in Zone 2; six in Zone 3; seven in Zone 4, and three mobile desks in Zone 5. The most common concerns raised are the need for additional plot allocation and requests for inter-settlement reunification. In order to improve working conditions for field staff at the PICDs, a total of fifteen desks have been constructed in Zones 1-3.

Education

- The school year has ended in Uganda, with the next academic year to begin in February 2017. Efforts are ongoing to ensure an increased number of South Sudanese refugee children are able to attend school in the coming year.
- **Primary School:** In Bidibidi, Primary Eight examinations took place in Takwa, Yumbe, Lukutua and Odropi Primary Schools. A total of 728 pupils sat for the examination, and were supported with transportation from the settlement to the examination sites, mathematical sets and pens. In Zone 4, registration of pupils in all seven classes is ongoing at Oluba primary school, with a total of 716 pupils (366 female and 350 male) registered.
- **Secondary School:** In Bidibidi, delivery of 440 chairs to Valley View Secondary school in Zone 1 was completed.
- **Early Childhood Education (ECD):** In order to help rehabilitate refugee children, guided recreational activities were provided with the help of animators and caregivers in the two Child Friendly Spaces in Zone 1. There was continued encouragement by caregivers of children aged 0-3 years to engage in recreational activities, which is expected to strengthen tracing of children aged 2-3 years to register in the center. There has been continued registration of children aged 0-5 years in the various centres to promote the involvement of mothers in the monitoring of children's growth and progress.
- In Adjumani, ten new tents were provided to be used as temporary classrooms to reduce congestion in schools in Pagirinya, Maaji, Agojo and Palorinya settlements, where a lack of classrooms has led to overcrowding. In Bidibidi, construction of three blocks of two permanent classrooms in Zone 1 primary schools is ongoing to ensure increased teaching space for the coming academic year.

Health

- Two new ambulances have been delivered to Bidibidi, which will improve provision of healthcare services to the population.
- In Adjumani, all new arrivals underwent medical screening at Elegu Collection Point. 269 children under five underwent nutritional screening; thirteen were diagnosed as moderately malnourished and enrolled in a supplementary feeding programme. 337 children under five were immunized against polio and 246 children aged six months to fifteen years were immunized against measles. 6,941 persons received healthcare services across the settlements of Adjumani district, of which 89% were refugees and 11% nationals. Malaria remained the leading cause of illness at 43%, followed by Acute Respiratory Infection at 20%, with other illnesses making up the remaining 37%.
- In Bidibidi, 10,213 medical consultations were conducted, an increase of 5% compared to 9,700 reported in the previous week, of which 14% were members of the host population. The leading causes of illness were malaria (37%), Acute Respiratory Tract Infections (21%) and Acute Watery Diarrhea (8%). Four cases of dysentery were reported in the refugee settlement, with one case each in Zones 2 and 4 and two in Zone 5 – a reduction of 33% compared to the six cases reported in the previous week. 28 mental health cases (sixteen male and twelve female) were registered, eight of which were new cases and 20 re-visits – an increase of 40% in comparison to 20 cases registered in the previous week.
- **Community Health:** In Bidibidi, Village Health Team (VHT) members who were earlier trained in Zones 1, 2, 3 and 4 are now engaged in delivering community health services. Identification of VHTs in Zone 5 is ongoing.

Food Security and Nutrition

- In Bidibidi, nutrition services are provided at the six nutrition integrated health facilities in Zones 1 and 2. In Zones 3 and 4, nutrition services are provided at both static and mobile health facilities. In Zone 5, nutrition services are provided at the reception centre.

- In Bidibidi, the second round of a supplementary feeding programme for children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women was completed in Zone 3, with 4,340 children aged 6-59 months and 602 pregnant and lactating women.
- In Bidibidi, 2,409 children aged 6-59 months and 296 pregnant and lactating women have been identified and enrolled in nutrition programmes, with 1,291 individuals aged over five enrolled in nutrition centres for rehabilitation. The defaulting rate amongst under-fives in the supplementary feeding programme was estimated at 12.9%, within the target of less than 15%. One of the reasons for refugees defaulting is their continuous movement and relocation between zones. Efforts to identify defaulters and their movements are underway, and Village Health Teams continue to support family tracing efforts and follow up with refugees who have defaulted.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

- In Adjumani, the availability of safe water is 17.7 litre per person per day (l/p/d) across the settlements of Adjumani. The supply increased from 17 l/p/d in the previous week with the repair of existing boreholes. Two boreholes drilled in Agojo settlement were installed during the week and are now functional, bringing the number of new boreholes in Agojo to four, in addition to one that was rehabilitated. The groundwater availability is limited in Agojo settlement, so water is being trucked from Pagirinya to meet the needs of the population. These two new boreholes will reduce this need for water trucking.
- In Bidibidi, drilling of additional boreholes is ongoing. Basic training on borehole water surveillance techniques was conducted by hydrogeologists, who also debrief humanitarian on the results of their six week hydrological survey.
- In Bidibidi, a shortcut road is under construction to reduce the distance and travelling time from Obongi to Zones 4 and 5 in order to improve the population's access to safe water.
- The new border point at Gobolo has been provided with water, sanitation and hygiene facilities.



Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- In Bidibidi, 1,600 pregnant and lactating women and elderly persons were provided with unconditional cash grants. Unconditional cash-grants ensure the dignity, freedom of choice and purchasing power of the refugee population, fosters self-reliance and boosts local markets.
- In Bidibidi, 259 pregnant and lactating women, elderly persons and mothers of children aged 6-23 months participated in cooking demonstrations.
- In Bidibidi, electronic E-vouchers were introduced for mothers to children aged 6-23 months to buy fresh and nutritious foods. A predetermined list of basic and fresh food items ensures that targeted households have access to diversified meals, available from selected vendors, who have been trained on the process. 34 mothers were provided with E-vouchers with a value of 37,400 Ugandan shillings to buy fresh food, with the objective of improving nutrition and better monitoring transactions. Twelve vendors and eighteen community mobilisers received training.
- Cash for work teams constructed an additional 121 temporary shelters for particularly vulnerable refugees in Bidibidi Zone 5. The teams are comprised of both males and females, and 30% are youths from host communities.



Shelter, Infrastructure and Distribution

- **Distribution:** In Bidibidi, distribution of relief items and shelter construction materials for shelter is ongoing. Women and girls are also provided with monthly packages of sanitary napkins, soap and underwear. Eight Police Officers have been deployed to the reception centre and supported with motorcycles to improve security during distribution.
- **Shelter/Site Planning:** In Bidibidi, 138 new plots were allocated to vulnerable refugees to meet their specific needs, and 296 huts constructed. A total of 99,857 plots of land have been demarcated for South Sudanese refugees in Bidibidi.
- **Infrastructure:** To date, a total of 380.6 km of access roads have been opened in Bidibidi refugee settlement.

OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Protection:** Strengthen response to mental health cases and awareness of mental health services. Ongoing training for protection desk staff on referrals, follow-up and monitoring of issues. Regular police patrols and security lighting to maintain security in all zones.
- **Education:** Construction of speedbumps on roads and fencing of all schools and Early Childhood Development Centres to prevent accidents. Maintenance of temporary school structures pending construction of permanent structures.
- **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. Additional vehicles to ensure provision of mobile healthcare services, particularly in Zones 4 and 5 of Bidibidi settlement.
- **Food Security and Nutrition:** Increase nutrition programme coverage in all zones of Bidibidi Settlement to ensure that malnourished cases are quickly identified and referred for treatment in a timely manner. Promotion of infant and young child feeding practices. Tracing and follow up of refugees who default on nutrition programmes.
- **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene:** Explore new sources of water to ensure a predictable and sustainable supply to the refugee population. Verification of the refugee populations of different zones as newly arrived refugees move and reunite with family members settled in other zones of the Settlement.
- **Shelter, Infrastructure and Distribution:** Timely replenishment of relief items, in particular plastic sheets, jerry cans and kitchen sets for newly arrived refugees. Additional heavy machinery for swift opening of access roads to ensure access to services for the population of Bidibidi settlement.

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Links:

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