

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).

24,793

Number of new arrivals between the 9th and 15th of November 2016

44,592

Number of new arrivals since 1st of November 2016

2,973

Daily average of new arrivals since 1st November 2016

378,305

Number of new arrivals in 2016

568,472

Total number of South Sudanese refugees in Uganda

PRIORITIES

- Identify and assess new areas for refugee settlement.
- Continue to increase supply of water to Bidibidi Settlement while seeking sustainable water sources.
- Implement livelihood activities to expedite refugee self-reliance
- Continue to promote women's participation in community structure including decision-making mechanisms

UGANDA

EMERGENCY UPDATE ON THE SOUTH SUDAN REFUGEE SITUATION

INTER-AGENCY WEEKLY | 9TH – 15TH NOVEMBER 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

- Between the 9th and 15th of November, 24,793 people fled to Uganda from South Sudan. The arrival rate remains high, peaking at 2,767 new arrivals on the 10th of November.
- The refugee population of Bidibidi Settlement stands at 221,674 persons.
- As Bidibidi settlement is reaching its maximum capacity, new settlements must be opened rapidly. Imvepi, in Arua district, and Palorinya, in Moyo district, have been identified and site assessment is ongoing.
- Refugees from South Sudan arrive in Uganda mainly through informal border points. They allege violence and ethnically motivated killings, false accusations by armed forces of collaboration with rival groups, closure of schools, discontinuation of exams and lack of employment and livelihoods as their reasons for fleeing the country. The majority of refugees come from the Equatoria Region of South Sudan, especially from Yei, Morobo, Lainya, Kajo Keji and the surrounding areas.
- Many refugees report spending days travelling on foot in the bush to avoid main roads and checkpoints allegedly established by armed groups. Refugees also continue to arrive into Uganda via the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), reporting blocked roads between Morobo and Kaya.
- Two hydrogeologists have been deployed to carry out a hydrological survey of Bidibidi and Rhino settlements, in addition to newly identified settlement areas, to inform the updated Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Strategy.
- Christos Stylianides, the EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, visited Bidibidi settlement on the 11th of November, where he met with refugees and visited a primary school in Zone 1 and the health centre at Bidibidi Reception Centre. He was also briefed on key achievements and challenges.



EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, Christos Stylianides, visiting a primary school in Zone 1, Bidibidi Settlement, Nov 2016. UNHCR/M. Farman-Farmaian

UPDATE ON SITUATION

- Refugees arriving in Uganda from South Sudan report that they have spent many days walking with limited access to food, water and other needs. Their reasons for fleeing include alleged 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 children; attacks on homes, often carried out 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.
- 529 South Sudanese new arrivals were reported at Elegu Collection Point from 8-14 November 2016, an increase from 405 refugees in the previous week. Most of the new arrivals came from Lanya Yei and Parajok areas of Magwi County.
- Eighteen South Sudanese new arrivals were reported in Lamwo district, a decrease from 174 new arrivals reported in the previous week. Most of the refugees arrived in Lamwo district from Ngomoromo and Madi-ope border points, fleeing from the Pajok area. Lamwo is not a regular entry point, but refugees have been crossing into Uganda from this district since fighting escalated in South Sudan in July. Border monitoring for refugee protection has been extended to Lamwo district, in which new arrivals are received and transferred to Bidibidi settlement.
- Some refugees reported travelling to Nimule from Yei area, rather than going straight to Oraba border point, due to fear of insecurity on the road in that area. They reported paying 50 South Sudanese Pounds per person as a transport fee from Juba to Nimule.

Protection

- Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs):** In Bidibidi, 1,568 (1,512 female and 56 male) PSNs were identified, with the majority being elderly persons and women at risk. 59 PSNs (sixteen in Zone 1 and 43 in Zone 3) were supported through prioritisation during general food distribution. In Bidibidi Zone 1, a training was conducted for 230 members of the Refugee Welfare Council in Zone 1, in which leaders discussed ways in which to strengthen the provision of services and protection for PSNs. Ten pregnant and lactating women with children aged 6-23 months were registered to benefit from cash transfers of 37,499 Ugandan Shillings offered by livelihood sector. A total of 228 shelters were constructed for PSNs in Bidibidi to facilitate their access to services.
- Sexual and Gender-based Violence Response:** In Bidibidi, 32 cases of sexual and gender-based violence were reported, including sixteen incidents of physical violence, four cases of emotional abuse, two defilement cases, six of economic exploitation and four cases of rape. Overall, 38 survivors of sexual and gender-based violence were assisted through established referral pathways, including some which were followed up from the previous week.
- Sexual and Gender-based Violence Prevention:** In Bidibidi, the sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) working group, which meets weekly, has started planning for the upcoming annual '16 Days of Activism'. An assessment of risks affecting children in schools and refugee and host communities is planned for later this month. 26,647 refugees, of which 14,984 women, have been reached with anti-SGBV messages through community dialogue, music, dance and drama. Women's groups have also targeted fellow refugee women with messages related to leadership and SGBV prevention, which reached 267 women. Initiatives in anti-SGBV clubs in seven schools were supported, and will be scaled up during the upcoming '16 Days of Activism'.



Bidibidi Settlement, assistance for the construction of shelter for Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs), Nov 2016. UNHCR/J. Kosaka

- **Child Protection:** In Bidibidi, 186 children at risk were identified, including 180 unaccompanied and separated children. 88 unaccompanied and separated children were referred for follow up, including 70 for shelter assistance and eighteen for family tracing. 1,073 children have been identified for foster care in Bidibidi settlement. Identification of foster families is ongoing in all zones in preparation for future fostering needs. In Adjumani, 818 unaccompanied and separated children were verified in Pagirinya settlement. 34 children were reunified with their families. 54 refugees (29 male and 25 female) were elected in Pagirinya as Child Protection Committee members. These committees play an important role in all settlements as a bridge between children and agencies on all child-related issues.
- **Community-Based Protection:** In Bidibidi, formation of women's groups is ongoing, with eight groups established in Zone 3, four in Zone 2 and twelve in Zone 1. These groups will increase women's participation in community governance structures and enhance their decision-making power. 342 refugees from Zones 1 and 4 participated in an awareness campaign on early marriage, drug abuse and Ugandan law. In Adjumani, training on their roles and responsibilities is ongoing for elected community leaders, including leaders of women and youth groups.
- **Protection Information and Counselling Desks:** There are nineteen protection information and counselling desks in Bidibidi settlement. Most desks in Zones 1 and 2 benefit from temporary tented structures, and sites have now been identified in Zone 3 for construction, which will begin next week. Each desk receives up to 700 enquiries per day for information on services, guidance, advice and referrals to essential life-saving services. Key issues raised this week include lost/missing ration cards, access to food and essential non-food items, access to health/medical services and assistance in the construction of shelter for vulnerable members of the community.

Education

- **Primary:** In Bidibidi, 17,629 refugee children (9,633 boys and 7,996 girls) are enrolled in primary school, with an attendance of 93% (16,312 out of 17,629). The pupil to classroom ratio remains very high, averaging 1:153. Examination setting for the ten primary schools in the settlement is underway and preparation of exam papers will begin next week. 49 chairs, 49 tables and 17 chalkboards and 7,500 school bags were distributed in Bidibidi Zone 1 schools. Girls of menstruation age were provided with sanitary pads in all ten primary schools. Identification of four primary school sites in Zone 4 was completed, and six schools are under construction in Zone 3. In Adjumani, 520 students enrolled in primary school in the recently opened Agojo settlement.
- **Secondary:** In Bidibidi, 3,722 refugee children (2,971 boys and 751 girls) are enrolled in secondary school. Distribution of scholastic materials and furniture to the two secondary schools in Bidibidi is ongoing. Students in Valley View Secondary School elected student leaders, and campaigns for prefect elections are ongoing at Swinga Secondary School. Both secondary schools are currently preparing for end-of-term exams. Latrine provision, access to water for students and teachers, and community awareness to ensure more girls enroll in secondary education are ongoing challenges.
- **Early Childhood Development:** In Bidibidi, 4,320 refugee children (2,201 boys and 2,119 girls) are enrolled at Early Childhood Development centres. Two centres are currently forming Centre Management Committees, and outdoor play equipment is under construction in four centres. The high pupil to teacher ratio remains a challenge, and there is a need to expedite provision of water to the school compound.
- In Bidibidi, four tents were provided to teachers in Zones 1 and 2 in order to improve their living conditions. 78 solar lamps were distributed to teachers in the ten primary and two secondary schools to aid their lesson preparation during the evening and early in the mornings.
- Ed Barnett, Education Advisor for Department for International Development (DfID) visited St. Luke Primary School and Early Childhood Development Centre in Adjumani on 9 November. During his visit, he met with the school management committee, teachers and staff, and learned about the education situation in schools hosting both refugee children and Ugandan nationals.



Health

- In Bidibidi 8,119 health consultations were conducted compared to 7,613 reported the previous week. The leading causes of illness were malaria (30.5%), acute respiratory tract infections (23.1%) and Acute Watery Diarrhea (14.0%). No new cases of cholera were reported in Bidibidi, marking 22 days since the last registered case. Five cases of dysentery were reported in the refugee settlement, a reduction of 37.5% compared to the eight cases registered in the previous week; the situation regarding dysentery is considered as stable. 25 mental health cases were registered in the settlement (fourteen male and eleven female). Fifteen of these were new cases and ten were follow-ups. 174 refugees (46 male and 128 female) in the settlement are being provided with Anti-retroviral Treatment for HIV/AIDS.
- In Bidibidi, a total of twelve deaths were registered, including eight children under the age of five, compared to seven deaths reported in the previous week.
- 89 Village Health Teams are operational in Bidibidi Zone 1 and 83 have been trained in Zone 2. In Zone 3, identification and selection of 50 Village Health Teams has been completed and training will begin on 14 November.
- Two ambulances were delivered to Bidibidi Zones 4 and 5. Four additional ambulances are still required.
- In Adjumani, 662 refugees were medically screened, compared to 560 in the previous week. 62 refugees were given treatment including 24 for malaria, eight for injuries; one for watery diarrhea, nineteen for respiratory tract infections and ten for other issues. 587 children over the age of one were dewormed, 119 children aged 6-59 months were immunized against measles and 133 under-fives were vaccinated against polio.



Food Security and Nutrition

- In Bidibidi, an inconsistent supply chain caused delays in food distribution. Work is ongoing to ensure a predictable schedule of food distribution to the refugee population, and refugee leaders will be engaged to share information and further support to resolving the matter.
- In Bidibidi, inpatient and outpatient therapeutic care, targeted supplementary feeding and basic Infant and Young Child Feeding care are provided at five nutrition-integrated health facilities. 1,260 children aged 6-59 months and 132 pregnant and lactating women have been identified and enrolled in the nutrition program. 1,066 children over the age of five are enrolled in the nutrition centers of Bidibidi for rehabilitation. The first round of a supplementary feeding program has been completed for 843 pregnant and lactating women and 1,542 children aged 6-23 months in Zone 2 and for 136 children 6-23 months In Zone 3.
- In Adjumani, 119 children aged 6-59 months were screened for malnutrition, of which one had severe acute malnutrition and eight had moderate acute malnutrition. As at 14th November, 892 pregnant and lactating women and 1788 children aged 6 – 23 months were still enrolled in Maternal Child Health Nutrition (MCHN) program and Blanket Supplementary Feeding Program (BSFP) respectively.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

- In Bidibidi, the average water supply across all zones was 8.52 litres per person per day (l/p/d) reflecting an increase from 7.63 litres/per/day in the previous week. Current water provision in the settlement is 62% water trucking, 24% hand pumps and 14% piped water distribution systems.
- In Bidibidi Zone 5, established on 8 November, 56 communal latrine blocks of 112 stances have been completed. The ratio of latrines per person is 1:116 compared to the minimum emergency standard of 1:50. Fifteen hygiene promoters have been identified to immediately commence hygiene promotion activities and sanitation awareness campaigns. The ratio of hygiene promoters per person is 1:867 compared to the emergency standard of 1:500.
- Eleven water storage tanks a capacity of 10,000 litres each were installed in Bidibidi Zone 5, to which water is trucked from the Obongi water treatment plant. Two water trucks of 25,000 litres capacity each were supplied to accommodate the increasing water trucking needs, bringing the total number of water trucks in Bidibidi settlement to 40. Two existing boreholes were restored and tested; one was found to be high yielding and will be motorized.

- Temporary sanitary facilities have been set up at the new Reception Centre in Bidibidi Zone 5, including 30 latrine stances and 30 bathing cubicles, to provide facilities to 1,500 refugees. Three water storage tanks with a capacity of 10,000 litres each were also installed.
- Plans are underway to increase the production capacity of Obongi water Treatment Plant from the current 300 to at least 500 m³ per day to further supplement current water supply interventions.
- In Adjumani, the average water supply across all settlements is 17 litres/person/day (16.3 l/p/d in Pagirinya and 30 l/p/d in Agojo settlement). Groundwater availability in Agojo is scarce, and out of nine boreholes drilled only three were successful, with low yields. Water is still being trucked from Pagirinya Refugee Settlement. The ratio of hygiene promoters per person is 1:261 in Pagirinya, and 1:317 in Agojo.



Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- A market assessment survey was carried out for eighteen markets around Bidibidi and Rhino refugee settlements, as well as secondary markets in Arua and Koboko. 50 refugee enumerators collected data using tablets.
- **Cash-Based Interventions:** In Bidibidi, a mission to assess the feasibility of introducing cash assistance to enable refugees to purchase locally available supplies took place. Due to lack of capacity at the local market level, the replacement of the current aid package with cash assistance is not feasible at this time, but there are options currently under discussion to provide refugees with cash-based interventions to meet their needs and reduce the resale of relief items in the meantime.
- In Bidibidi Zone 3, community structures were strengthened with the election of sixteen leaders for the Refugee Welfare Council. A Community Watch Group, a Sanitation Committee and a Food Distribution Committee have also been formed in Zone 3 to enhance service delivery and information sharing.



Shelter, Infrastructure and Distribution

- **Distribution:** Upon arrival at the Bidibidi Zone 5 Reception Centre, refugees are provided with essential relief items. Shelter kits are provided once refugees are on their assigned plots to assist with the construction of temporary housing structures. Women and girls are provided with monthly packages of sanitary napkins and underwear. While coordination of relief item distribution is effective, challenges remain with regard to the timely replenishment of items and maintaining a buffer stock, particularly priority items for newly arrived refugees such as plastic sheets, jerry cans and kitchen sets.
- **Shelter/Site Planning:** All 24,793 new arrivals in Bididi settlement were allocated land, with 200 plots allocated and 211 huts constructed during the reporting period for particularly vulnerable refugees. 20.5 kilometres of access roads were opened, bringing the total access roads opened to 270 kilometres.
- **ICT capacity building:** A Refugee Emergency Telecommunication Sector (RETS) coordinator has been deployed to strengthen and coordinate the ICT emergency response services on the ground by ensuring that critical ICT services such as voice, data and security communications are operational and enable the humanitarian response. A coordination and information sharing session was organized to explain the role of RETS coordinator, actively assess available ICT services to identify gaps, and coordinate the overall ICT emergency response. In order to facilitate and maximise the benefits of security communication, a senior telecoms operator has been deployed to support the operation. The mission will organize practical training sessions on the use of HF/VHF radio for humanitarian staff.



Bidibidi Settlement, distribution of plastic sheets to newly arrived refugees in Zone 5, Nov 2016. UNHCR/M. Farman-Farmaian

OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- There is no emergency response presence in Lamwo, so new arrivals are not being provided with food and medicine. Construction is planned for an overnight shelter where refugees can stay before being transferred to settlements.
- Congestion remains a major challenge in most of schools, with a high ratio of pupils to classrooms. Some children have been sitting on the ground due to lack of chairs and desks. Construction of new classrooms and provision of additional furniture (desks and chairs) is urgently required, as well as construction of accommodation for teachers.
- There is an unreliable power supply at health facilities, which are currently dependent on solar power sources and experience frequent power outages. Installation of dual power source (generator and solar) is required to address this challenge. There is need for additional support to strengthen the capacity of health facilities with regards to staffing, drugs and medical supplies, and Health Information Systems.
- There is a need for multi-pronged malaria control measures, including Indoor Residual Spraying, distribution of nets treated with insecticide, larviciding and drainage.
- In Bidibidi, requests for both intra-settlement and inter-settlement family tracing are increasing. Additional resources are required to ensure effective tracing and reunification of separated families.
- Six out of twelve planned nutrition centers in Bidibidi settlement are in place, but there is a requirement for overall capacity building with regard to awareness, promotion and protection of infant and young child feeding including community outreach program, nutrition surveillance and the development of a standardized monitoring and reporting framework, as well as scaling up of nutrition rehabilitation infrastructures.
- With the increase in refugee population, water trucking operations are becoming inadequate, especially for Bidibidi Zones 3 and 4, owing to insufficient water sources and long distances for trucking. There is a need to expedite motorization of the two high yielding boreholes in Bidibidi Zone 3 to supplement water trucking sources.
- Increase the number of sanitary facilities at the new Reception Centre in Bidibidi Zone 5 as well as the water storage capacity to meet the requirements of up to 4,000 new arrivals per day.
- Introduction of more livelihood projects to cover a large population of refugees, in addition to strengthening engagement of local communities, as well as government and district officials to ensure these are aligned with government livelihood initiatives.

Contacts:

Government of Uganda (OPM) Coordination Contacts:

David Apollo Kazungu, Commissioner for Refugees, dakazungu@gmail.com, Tel.: +256 (0) 776 411 448

Douglas Asiimwe, Principal Refugees Protection Officer, asiimwedw@yahoo.com, Tel.: +256 (0) 772 969 054

John Alinaitwe, Senior Settlement Officer, comdt2k@yahoo.co.uk, Tel.: +256 (0) 772 425 718

Titus Jogo, Refugee Desk Officer, Adjumani, Tel: +256 (0) 392 725 718

Solomon Osakana, Refugee Desk Officer Arua, Tel: +256 (0)772 854 919

Robert Baryamwesiga, Settlement Commandant Bidibidi, Yumbe, Tel: +256 (0)774 983 650

Armitage Basikania, Settlement Commandant, Rhino Camp, Arua, Tel: +256 (0)774 173 966

UNHCR Coordination Contacts:

Nasir Fernandes, Senior Emergency Coordinator, fernandn@unhcr.org, Tel.: +26 (0) 776 730 013

Jens Hesemann, Senior Field Coordinator, hesemann@unhcr.org, Tel: +256 (0) 772 701 011

Media and Reporting Contact:

Charlie Yaxley, Associate External Relations Officer, yaxley@unhcr.org, Tel: +256 (0)776 720 045

Data and Information Management Contact:

Abdelrahman Jaber, Associate Information Management Officer, jaber@unhcr.org, Tel: +256 (0)772 701 057

Shahzad Asghar, Information Management Officer, asghar@unhcr.org

Links:

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