

South Sudan Situation

December 2019

2,216,652*

South Sudanese refugees in the region as of 31 December 2019 (pre- and post-Dec 2013 caseload).

74,947*

South Sudanese refugee arrivals in 2019, with **5,015 new refugee arrivals in December 2019**.

298,313

Refugees in South Sudan with 92 per cent from Sudan, 6 per cent from the DRC, 1 per cent from Ethiopia and 1 per cent from CAR.

235,802

Number of South Sudanese refugees who have returned in a self-organized manner (Nov 2017-Dec 2019)

63%

of the South Sudanese refugee population are children (under the age of 18 years old)

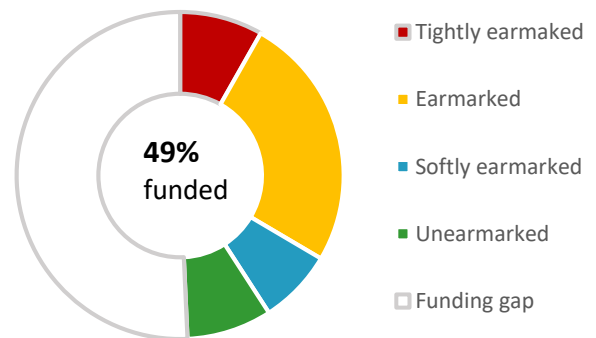
1.47 million

Number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in South Sudan with 13% inside six UNMISS Protection of Civilians site.

UNHCR'S FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS (AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2019)

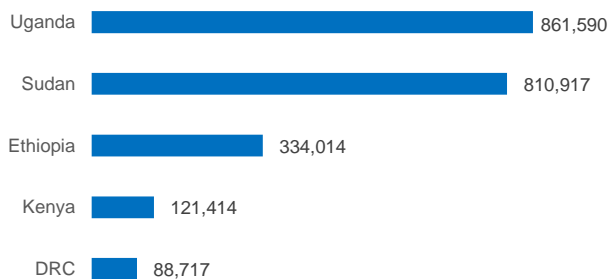
USD 718.9 million

requested for the South Sudan situation



POPULATION OF CONCERN

Host Countries



* Based on field reports, UNHCR and Government registration.

New Arrivals

	In 2018 (Jan to Dec)	In 2019 (Jan to Dec)
CAR	325	171
DRC	6,201	5,816
Ethiopia	19,770*	8,219
Kenya	7,325	10,515
Sudan	33,117	18,591
Uganda	40,758	31,635
TOTAL	107,496	74,947

Highlights and Operational Context

- On 17 December, David Shearer, head of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), briefed the Security Council on developments towards the new administration, amid ongoing humanitarian concerns worsened by recent flooding. President Salva Kiir and opposition leader Riek Machar were expected to form a unified transitional Government by mid-November, in line with a revitalized peace agreement signed last September, but that deadline was extended by a further 100 days. Mr Shearer added that “the choice to delay a transitional government twice has dampened initial hopes, eroded some trust and confidence, and caused people to suspect that the political will between the parties is waning”. He also underlined the international community’s support for the nation, including by the African Union, regional body IGAD, and the UN Security Council.
- UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi, on 13 December, called on all parties to boost efforts to form an inclusive national unity government in South Sudan in order to achieve permanent peace. Despite the signing of the peace agreement last year, the situation remains critical, six years after the outbreak of violence, with millions of South Sudanese displaced and in need of safety and humanitarian assistance. “South Sudanese people long for lasting peace,” said High Commissioner Grandi. “Only a political solution can end the crisis and bring relief to those who have been displaced over and over again.” He added that it was also important to sustain the momentum towards the implementation of the peace agreement in order to ensure the safety of civilians and guarantee solutions for those affected.
- On 12 December, the World Food Programme (WFP) warned against potential famine in South Sudan as hunger deepens due to drought, floods and an uncertain political future, with fears more than 5.5 million people could be going hungry in early 2020. The floods have affected nearly one million people and destroyed 73,000 metric tons of potential harvests.

Updates and Achievements

SOUTH SUDAN

Latest Developments

- **Protection monitoring:** In December, spontaneous refugee returns remained relatively low despite improved road conditions with the onset of the dry season. At the same time, return monitors witnessed an increased exit from South Sudan mainly to Ethiopia, Sudan and Uganda. This coincides with continued conflict between armed groups in Upper Nile’s Maiwut and Nasir areas during the period. More than 11,000 persons from Maiwut, Khormachar, Nyoplew, Tuaregany, Tuel and Nyalonglong villages have been internally displaced, while up to 3,000 others are estimated to have crossed into Ethiopia.

Achievements and Impact

- **Statelessness Prevention:** During the reporting period, UNHCR in collaboration with Jonglei State Ministry of Health, processed age assessments for 406 persons that sought refuge in the UNMISS Bor Protection of Civilians site as part of efforts to reduce statelessness. An age assessment is required to obtain a South Sudan nationality certificate. UNHCR will thereafter support IDPs to acquire the nationality certificate from the Directorate of Nationality, Passport and Immigration.

- **IDP Protection assessments:** In December, in Jonglei, UNHCR conducted a protection assessment in Akobo town to identify the needs of those impacted by flooding and provide information on available services. The assessment included three focus-group discussions and two key informant interviews. The main concerns of the participants were food and livelihoods, water and sanitation, health, shelter and non-food items. In Unity, UNHCR and the Danish Refugee Council travelled to Manga, Nhialdu and Guit Counties to assess the areas as potential areas for IDP return and identify protection risks. A similar assessment in Mir-Mir, Koch County, identified gaps in protection, water and sanitation, food security and livelihoods and health services.

Countries of Asylum

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Achievements and Impact

- Focus group discussions were conducted in Obo targeting issues related to SGBV, which provided an opportunity to raise awareness among leaders on the importance of immediate management of rape cases in order to prevent risks of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancies. A total of 134 South Sudanese and Congolese refugees took part in the group discussions.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Latest Developments

- UNHCR recorded the arrival of 329 South Sudanese asylum-seekers in its reception centers in Ituri and Haut Uele Provinces in December. Some had fled ongoing fighting in South Sudan, while others arrived from border areas within the DRC that are frequently targeted by armed groups, and where humanitarian aid is diminishing.

Achievements and Impact

- In December, 500 South Sudanese refugees were relocated to Bele settlement in Haut-Uele Province, bringing the total number to 1,195 since September 2019. The relocation exercise aims to decongest the overcrowded Meri settlement and to move refugees away from unsafe border areas.

ETHIOPIA

Latest Developments

- In December, a total of 2,704 new arrivals from South Sudan were registered in Pamdong reception centre and Raad entry point. As of 31 December, there were 4,175 registered new arrivals awaiting relocation and more than 1,000 willing to relocate pending registration. Most of the new arrivals, coming from Upper Nile State in South Sudan, cited a lack of basic services, food insecurity, and floods as the reasons for flight.
- Following an Inter-Agency meeting held on 12 December, ARRA proposed a temporary suspension of the registration process of the new arrivals due to overcrowding. UNHCR and partners continue to enhance service delivery to meet the needs of the new arrivals in Pamdong.

Achievements and Impact

- As the numbers of the new arrivals continued to increase, Action Against Hunger (AAH) continued with the nutrition response by deploying two technical teams to enhance nutrition screening, Outpatient Therapeutic Program (OTP), referral for Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) cases with complication and Targeted Supplementary Feeding programs.
- A food security and nutrition rapid assessment was carried out on 10 December. The assessment aimed to highlight food and nutrition needs and the gaps in service delivery given the increased presence of new arrivals, to coordinate the support for an adequate supply of food to the refugees and to recommend improvements in nutrition care and management with food and nutrition partners.

KENYA

Latest Developments

- On 8 December, the European Union (EU) Commissioner for International Partnerships, Jutta Urpilainen, visited Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement to meet with refugees and Kenyans who are benefitting from EU funded projects in Turkana West. The Commissioner, who was accompanied by the Head of EU Delegation in Kenya, Ambassador Simon Mordue, commended the implementation of Kalobeyei Integrated Socio-Economic Development Plan (KISED P).

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR and partners continued to respond to a cholera outbreak in Kakuma camp and Kalobeyei settlement. As of 31 December, 176 cases of cholera that have been identified, including 134 cases in Kakuma camp, 5 cases from Kakuma town, 21 cases in Kalobeyei settlement and 16 cases from the surrounding host community. All cases were treated and discharged at either of the two Cholera Treatment Centers in Kakuma or Kalobeyei with no reported deaths.

SUDAN

Latest Developments

- The Friends of Sudan (FOS) voiced their support to the civilian-led government at a meeting in Khartoum on 11 December and pledged to hold a donor conference in April 2020 to make concrete financial contributions to support the government's economic reform efforts. UNHCR and inter-agency partners continue to advocate for the inclusion of refugees in these reforms. FOS includes 14 countries, the African Union, European Union, United Nations, the league of Arab States and three financial institutions, including the African Development Bank, International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

Achievements and Impact

- In 2019, WFP's cash-based transfers to all South Sudanese refugees in Al Nimir refugee camp (home to more than 12,800 refugees in East Darfur State), have enabled many to rent land and farm their own crops. Previously, most refugees in the camp were only able to work as labourers on host community farms.
- The Government's Water, Environment and Sanitation Department (WES) completed the construction of two elevated water tanks at Jouri and El Kashafa camps (home to some 24,000 South Sudanese refugees) with 45,000 litres capacity. These water tanks will mitigate water shortages that communities in the camps

were facing since 2018. Similarly, the construction of an additional two water tanks was completed and made operational at Alagaya and Al Redis1 camps, which will help provide adequate water at peak demand times and maintain equitable distribution across the different blocks.

UGANDA

Latest Developments

- Uganda attended the GRF, to discuss ways to improve the response of the international community to refugee situations. The delegation participated in several high-level engagements and made six pledges to galvanize support for refugee and host communities in Uganda. The pledges made included: maintaining the open-door policy; inclusion of refugees in national planning and statistical systems; implementation of the Education Response Plan; the Health Sector Integrated Refugee Response Plan; Water and Environment Response Plan; and ensuring the integrity of the asylum system. Refugees residing in Uganda were also invited to the GRF and spoke on high-level panels, presenting a set of pledges on behalf of refugees in Uganda. These were centered around livelihoods, education, and environmental conservation.

Achievements and Impact

- On 12 December, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), UNHCR and the Grameen Crédit Agricole Foundation (GCAF) launched a four-year programme to promote access to financial and non-financial services for refugees and host communities in Uganda. In total, about 100,000 refugees and nationals will be able to access financial services (credit and savings), of which 70 percent will be women. The programme is an innovative blended financial approach with public and private funds coming together to support refugees and host communities. It will support the creation and development of small businesses such as farming, handicrafts, catering and trading. This is a first-of-its-kind programme, designed to incentivize both microfinance investors and financial service providers, to extend their financial services to refugee and host populations. The programme is currently being piloted in Kampala and Palorinya refugee settlement, Obongi district. It will be gradually expanded to other targeted refugee-hosting districts.

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