

SOUTH SUDAN REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN - REVISED

January – December 2017



May 2017

Cover photograph:

South Sudanese refugees crossing Kibali bridge, Democratic Republic of the Congo. November 2016.
UNHCR/Gloria Ramazani

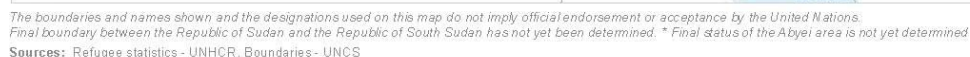
Strategic Overview

Period	January to December 2017
Current Population	1,769,241 (at 31 March 2017)
Population Planning Figures	2,130,500
Target Beneficiaries	2,130,500
Financial Requirements	US\$ 1,382,909,571
Number of Partners	58

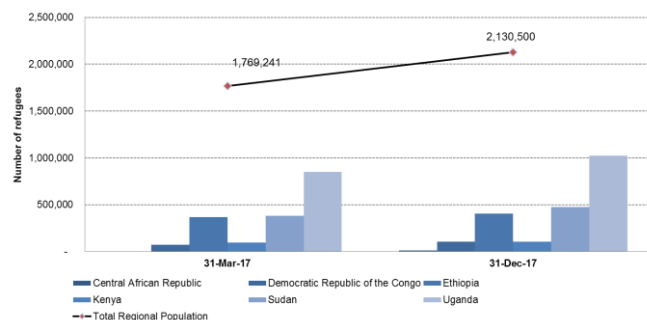
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Projected number of refugees from South Sudan by 31 December 2017



Population Trends



REGIONAL STRATEGIC OVERVIEW

Introduction

Latest Developments in South Sudan

The conflict in South Sudan continues to intensify at a rapid pace. Prospects for the implementation of the Agreement on Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (ARCISS) remains bleak despite renewed international mediation efforts by the United Nations (UN), the African Union (AU), and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). The peace process is yet to be accompanied by a comprehensive cessation of hostilities, further undermining the likelihood of national dialogue. The deployment of a 4,000-strong regional protection force under the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS), which was mandated by the Security Council on 12 August 2016, has not yet materialized. The Sudan People's Liberation Movement in Opposition (SPLM–IO), previously recognized as a legitimate political opposition, and its members are now characterized by the Government as criminal elements and spoilers of the peace process. The political impasse has resulted in an escalation of the military confrontation and its impact on civilians as new alliances are created among various rebel groups in the Equatoria region and in Western Bahr El Gazal. Estimates place civilian deaths from the conflict in tens of thousands but in the absence of a reliable casualty tracking system, the real toll could be much higher.

On 29 January 2017, a joint statement issued by the Chair of IGAD, the Chairperson of the AU Commission, the AU High Representative for South Sudan, the Chairperson of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC) and the UN Secretary General expressed deep concern over the continuing spread of fighting and risk of inter-communal violence escalating into mass atrocities. Subsequently, the Report of the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan submitted to the Human Rights Council in March 2017 further warned that “a process of ethnic cleansing was under way in the country” corroborating earlier findings by the UN Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide following his mission to South Sudan in November 2016. The conflict is characterized by violent attacks against civilians and community infrastructure by parties to the conflict causing large-scale forced displacement. Women and children are subjected to exploitation, abuse, abduction, and rape and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

Against this backdrop, 7.5 million people are currently in need of humanitarian assistance and protection in South Sudan as a result of armed conflict and widespread inter-communal violence. Deteriorating macroeconomic factors compound the complexity of the crisis. The exchange rate continues to plummet, fuel shortages are reported throughout the country and oil revenues remain stagnant and unable to offset the impact of the catastrophic humanitarian crisis. On 20 February 2017, the United Nations officially declared a state of famine in two counties of Unity State. Food insecurity has deteriorated to unprecedented levels in these areas owing to protracted violence arising from the ongoing conflict, displacement, and the lack of humanitarian access. Farmers cannot harvest their crops. A joint United Nations humanitarian food security assessment conducted in January 2017 found that more than 4.9 million people were severely food insecure, a figure that was expected to rise to 5.5 million by April 2017.

Forced Displacement Trends

The dynamics of forced displacement in South Sudan saw the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) increase to 1.9 million in 2017, which includes 215,000 displaced people living in UNMISS Protection of Civilian sites. Given the current lack of protection in most areas of the country, forcibly-displaced people are increasingly moving across international borders. Apart from northern Unity State, the large majority of IDPs are living behind the front lines in areas where their ethnic group controls territory.

Regional Refugee Outflows

The increase in South Sudanese refugees is currently one of the largest recorded worldwide: between mid-2013 and mid-2016, the number of refugees from South Sudan rose from 102,700 to 854,200. The first quarter of 2017 witnessed an acceleration of this trend. The simultaneous influx to the six countries of the Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP), namely the Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda, reached 1.7 million by March 2017.

The current revision of the Regional RRP was prompted by larger than anticipated refugee movements into Sudan and Uganda in the first quarter of 2017. The end-of-year planning figure for Sudan was surpassed in March and if current trends continue, Uganda will exceed its planning figure in the second quarter of 2017. The revised Regional RRP contains updated response plans for Sudan and Uganda to address the increased needs in these two host countries and plans to cater for an overall population of 2.1 million South Sudanese refugees in the six countries of asylum.

	Current Refugee Population (31 March 2017)	Revised planning population (31 Dec 2017)
Central African Republic	1,639	10,500
Democratic Republic of the Congo	74,148	105,000
Ethiopia	366,198	405,000
Kenya	95,283	108,000
Sudan	379,692	477,000
Uganda	852,281	1,025,000
Total Population	1,769,241	2,130,500

Nine out of ten South Sudanese refugees in neighbouring countries are women and children. More than 75,000 South Sudanese refugee children are unaccompanied or separated from their parents. Serious abuses against civilians in South Sudan have been reported, including killing, torture, rape and other forms of SGBV, recruitment of child soldiers, and destruction of property and livelihoods resulting in thousands fleeing their homes and a continuing outflow of refugees to neighbouring countries.

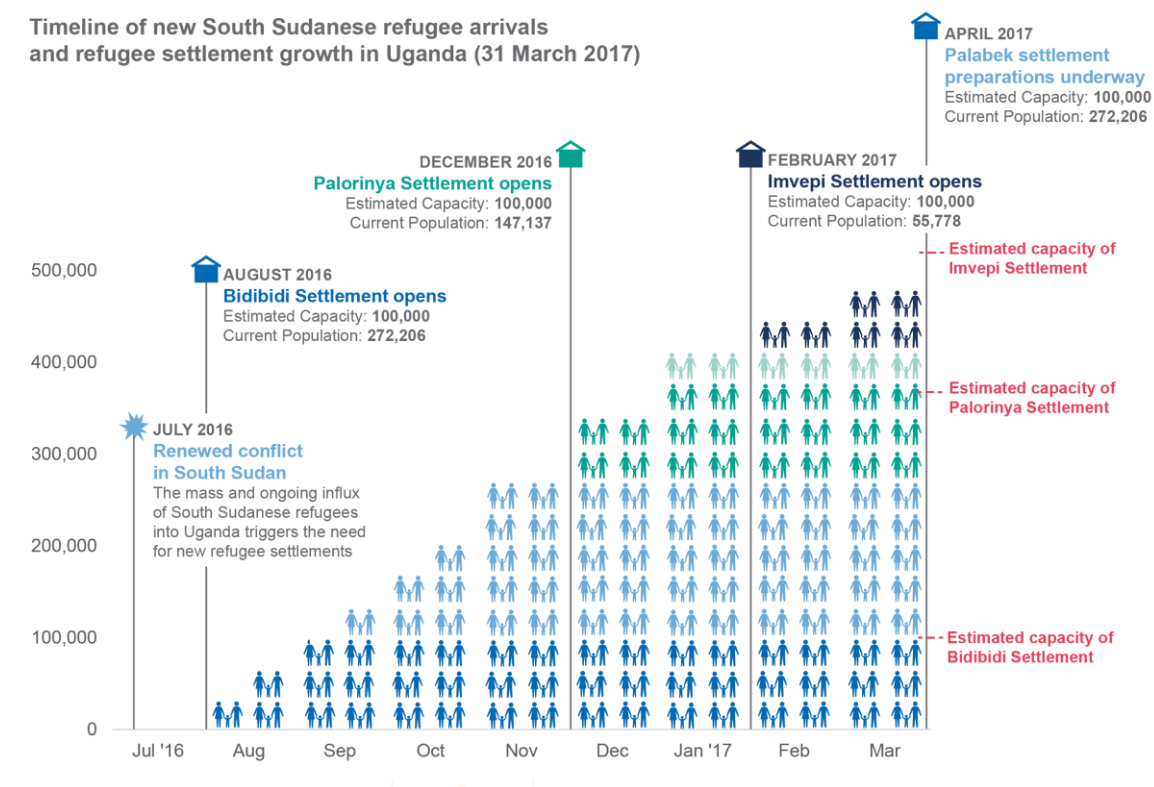
Uganda

From July 2016 through January 2017, more than 512,000 South Sudanese refugees arrived in Uganda at an average of 2,400 refugees per day. The influx reached 3,000 a day for several months, making Uganda the third-ranked refugee-hosting country in the world with close to one million refugees. The increased rate of refugee arrivals warranted the revision of the Uganda chapter of the 2017 Regional RRP. Initial planning in late 2016 had foreseen 300,000 new arrivals by end of 2017. However, the influx outpaced projections with 177,000 new arrivals already having entered Uganda by 31 March 2017 bringing the total number of South Sudanese refugees in the country since the onset of the crisis to more than 852,000. As a result, the Government of Uganda, UNHCR and RRP partners agreed to revise the projected arrival figure to 400,000 for 2017, increasing the overall RRP population planning figure for Uganda to 1,025,000 South Sudanese refugees.

The Government of Uganda adopted the innovative approach of integrating refugee management and protection into its Second National Development Plan (NDP II) through the Settlement Transformative Agenda (STA), in accordance with the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. The STA aims to sustainably assist refugees and host communities by promoting socioeconomic development in refugee-hosting areas, supported by the United Nations through the Refugee and Host Population Empowerment (ReHope) initiative, which was developed in collaboration with the World Bank. The approach is in conformity with the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) called for by the New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2016.

Uganda's model of asylum enhances the self-reliance of refugees and host communities and is an example of good practice. Nonetheless, the lack of predictable development and humanitarian financing to respond to a displacement crisis of this magnitude could unravel these achievements. The table below illustrates the impact of the refugee influx on settlement growth in northern Uganda. Since July 2016, four

settlements have been opened to accommodate the refugee influx each with capacity of less than 100,000 refugees. The number of South Sudanese refugees arriving in Uganda remains high as fighting in the Equatoria region continues. The majority of refugees are arriving from Yei, Morobo, Lainya, Kajo Keji and the surrounding areas of Central Equatoria. Most recently a military attack on 5 April in the South Sudanese town of Pajok caused 6,000 refugees to cross into the Lamwo area of Uganda. The influx is expected to continue as sporadic military attacks continue to trigger cross border movements.



Sudan

Conflict and heightened food insecurity in South Sudan, especially in the north-western States of Northern Bahr El Ghazal, Unity and Warrap, were the main triggers of the South Sudanese refugee influx into East and South Darfur and West Kordofan in 2016. The refugee influx into Sudan is expected to continue throughout 2017.

The 2017 Regional RRP for South Sudan had initially planned for 330,000 South Sudanese refugees arriving by the end of the year. However, the total number of South Sudanese refugees in Sudan had already reached 379,000 by 31 March 2017, surpassing the planned figure in the first quarter of the year. In light of the accelerated pace of the influx, RRP partners agreed to undertake a revision to increase total

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