

**REVISED
SOUTH SUDAN REGIONAL
REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN**

January – December 2016



July 2016

Cover photograph:

Justine Underete taking her sick daughter Fozia to the health centre. She fled from South Soudan with her two daughters. UNHCR/C.Delfosse.

Strategic Overview

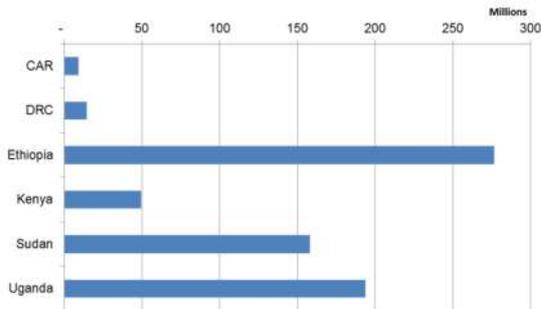
Period	January to December 2016
Current Population	867,239
Population Planning Figures	973,000
Target Beneficiaries	973,000
Financial Requirements	US\$ 701,606,726
Number of Partners	46

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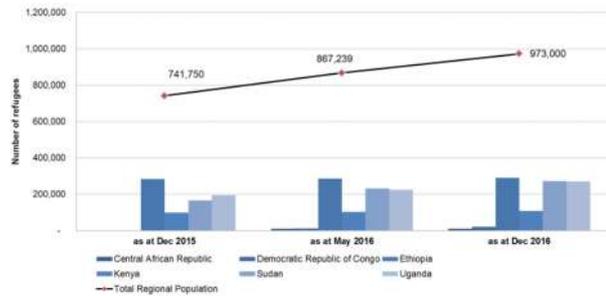
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REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE DASHBOARD

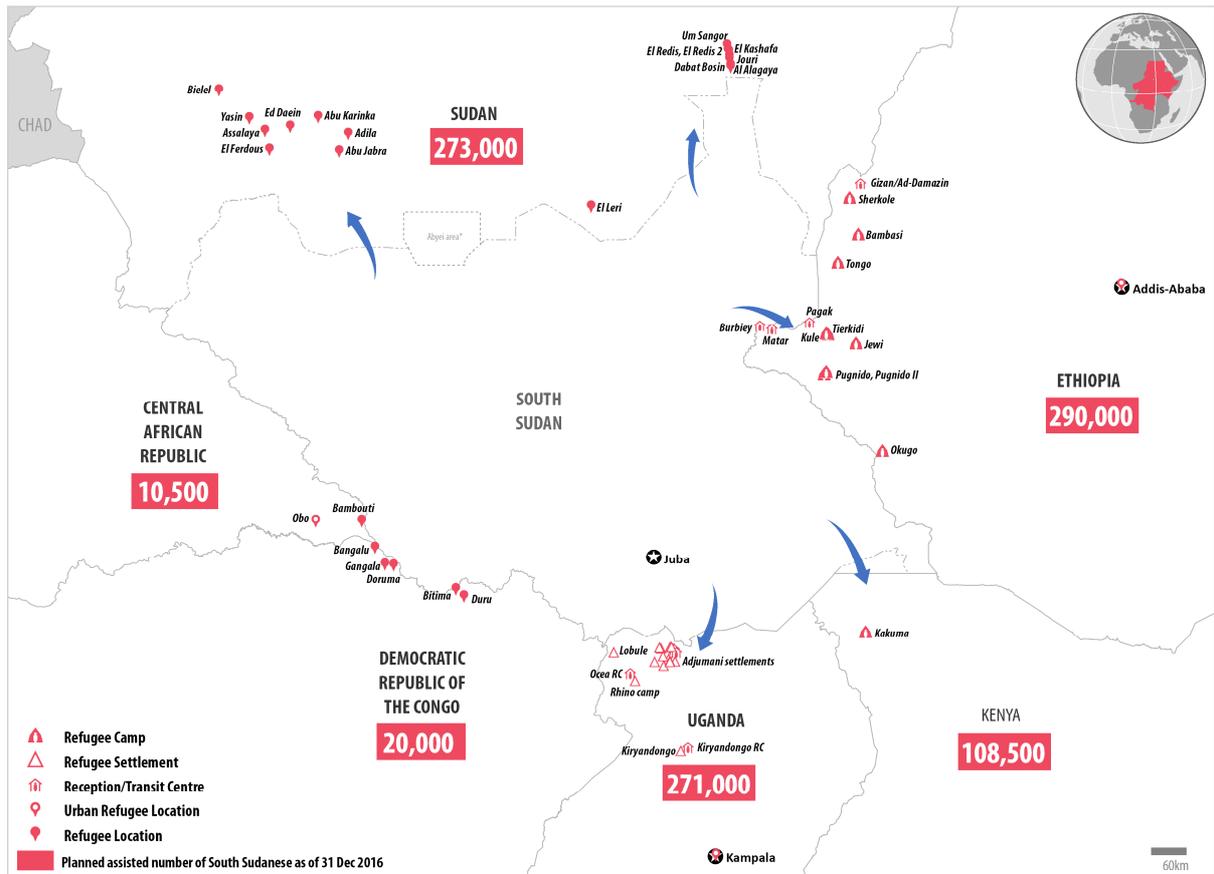
Financial Requirements (US Dollars)



Population Trends



Projected number of refugees from South Sudan by 31 December 2016



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. * Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined. Sources: Refugee statistics - UNHCR, Boundaries - UNCS

REGIONAL STRATEGIC OVERVIEW

Introduction

The year 2016 has seen consistent and high numbers of new refugees from South Sudan. From January to May 2016, more than 125,000 South Sudanese refugees have sought asylum, mainly in Sudan (65,000 individuals) and Uganda (some 31,000 individuals). For the first time, the Central African Republic (CAR) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) received refugees from South Sudan, as conflict and insecurity spread to new areas of the country. As of May 2016, the total number of South Sudanese refugees stands at more than 867,000 individuals, of whom some 744,000 people have fled since December 2013. Out of this total, some 70 per cent are children and close to 60 per cent are adult women.

The Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan signed in August 2015 represents a key opportunity to end the armed conflict that killed tens of thousands and left some 2.4 million people displaced inside and outside of South Sudan since the conflict broke out in mid-December 2013. On 26 April 2016, the South Sudan First Vice President Designate, Dr. Riek Machar, arrived in Juba and was subsequently sworn in as the first vice-president in a newly formed Transitional Government of National Unity (TGoNU), which will run the country for 30 months.

While the formation of the TGoNU is a positive step, human rights violations remain and the situation is volatile with localized conflict continuing in certain areas of the country, including those previously unaffected by conflict in Greater Bahr El Ghazal and Greater Equatoria. While small-scale spontaneous return movements have been observed in South Sudan the forced displacement inside and outside of the country continues.

In a statement issued on 4 May 2016, the United Nations Security Council called on South Sudan's newly formed Transitional Government of National Unity to urgently remove impediments to the delivery of humanitarian assistance and to allow UNMISS free movement to exercise its mandate, including protection of civilians and investigation of human rights violations. Targeted sanctions remain in place for South Sudan, and a Panel of Experts is mandated to oversee implementation, gather, examine and analyse information regarding sanctions.

According to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification of South Sudan, issued on 29 June 2016, up to 4.8 million people are projected to face severe food shortages over the coming months, with the risk of a food crisis continuing to threaten other parts of the country. This prognosis comes at a time of an unusually harsh season where roads become impassable and represents the highest level of hunger since the conflict began two and half years ago. Of particular concern are new areas of severe food insecurity such as Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Eastern Equatoria that have already started contributing to the outflow of the population.

The 2016 Regional Refugee Response Plan, launched in December 2015, was elaborated through a consultative process coordinated by UNHCR with the involvement of some 45 UN agencies and NGO partners; based on agreed planning figures it provides a framework for interagency interventions for the assistance and protection of the South Sudanese refugees.

In April 2016, UNHCR and Regional RRP partners agreed to revise the Regional RRP for 2016 based on the new large-scale influx of South Sudanese refugees between January and end April in the traditional asylum countries but also including the two new asylum countries, CAR and DRC. In the first four months of the year, Sudan had received 88 per cent of their planned 2016 population and Uganda had received 73 per cent of their anticipated annual arrivals. UNHCR and Regional RRP partners estimate based on the current trends, that the total population figure will approach one million South Sudanese refugees by the end of 2016.

A new agreed feature in the 2016 Revised Regional RRP is the inclusion of all South Sudanese refugees who were in the countries of asylum prior to the start of the conflict in December 2013. The rationale is to have a consolidated view of the needs and solutions for all South Sudanese refugees in the region.

An inter-agency coordination meeting called by UNHCR took place in Nairobi in May to discuss revising the 2016 Regional Refugee Response Plan and the Contingency Plan based on the new planning figures and the addition of CAR and DRC to the plan.

This current revision is therefore the result of collaborative work between UNHCR and Regional RRP partners at the country and regional levels, to plan for the rest of the year – from June to December 2016.

Beneficiary Population

	End-Year Population <i>(31 Dec 2015)</i>	Current Population <i>(31 May 2016)</i>	Final Planning Population <i>(31 Dec 2016)</i>
Central African Republic		10,454	10,500
Democratic Republic of Congo		11,966	20,000
Ethiopia	283,537	285,657	290,000
Kenya	97,955	103,104	108,500
Sudan	166,638	231,638	273,000
Uganda	193,620	224,420	271,000
Total Population	741,750	867,239	973,000

In the **Central African Republic**, since mid-December 2015, more than 10,400 refugees from South Sudan have sought asylum, the vast majority of them in the Bambouti. By the end of 2016, it is estimated that, the total number of refugees in will reach 10,500.

In the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, since mid-December 2016, more than 11,800 refugees from South Sudan have sought asylum, the vast majority of them in the Haut-Uele region, and more particularly in Dungu. By the end of 2016, it is estimated that the total number of refugees in will reach 20,000.

In **Ethiopia**, more than 285,600 refugees from South Sudan have sought asylum, the vast majority of them in the Gambella region. This includes the pre-December 2013 caseload of about 54,000 refugees and more than 2,000 new arrivals recorded since December 2015. By the end of 2016, it is estimated that some 4,000 South Sudanese will seek asylum in Ethiopia bringing the total number of refugees in Ethiopia to 290,000.

In **Kenya**, more than 103,000 refugees from South Sudan have sought asylum, the vast majority of them in the Kakuma region. The total number includes South Sudanese refugees who were in Kenya prior to the end-2013 conflict. It is estimated that an additional 5,300 South Sudanese could seek asylum in 2016, bringing the total number of refugees in Kenya to 108,500 by the end of 2016.

In **Sudan**, more than 231,000 refugees from South Sudan have sought asylum, the majority of them in White Nile and South Kordofan. This number includes some 41,000 newly arrived South Sudanese since the beginning of the year. Based on current trends, an additional influx of some 43,000 South Sudanese is expected in Sudan by the end of 2016 bringing the total number of South Sudanese refugees to 273,000 by end-2016.

In **Uganda** by May 2016 some 224,420 South Sudanese refugees have sought asylum mainly in Adjumani, Kiryandongo and Arua regions. This number includes those in Uganda prior to the 2013 conflict and the new influx from January to December 2016; some 30,800 persons in four months alone. Another 46,500 South Sudanese are expected to flee to Uganda, bringing the total number of refugees to 271,000 by the end of 2016.

Regional Protection and Humanitarian Needs

Despite the open border policies, the *prima facie* recognition of South Sudanese refugees in all the countries of asylum, and the stabilization of the emergency in most of the countries, the needs of South Sudanese refugees remain dire. In a country with some of the worst human development indicators even prior to the crisis, the coping mechanisms of its population have been severely affected and the gains of the short-lasting peace that were achieved when South Sudan became independent in 2011 have been eroded.

Currently, more than 7.5 million people – nearly two in every three persons in South Sudan – are food insecure, including four million who are severely food insecure, while 4.6 million people are estimated to need humanitarian assistance. In this context, lack of security and subsequent extreme hunger in South Sudan have disrupted the livelihoods of people; these remain the main triggers that are likely to continue forcing people to seek asylum in the neighbouring countries of CAR, DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda in 2016.

Together with partners and in close collaboration with Government counterparts in the countries of asylum, UNHCR will continue to ensure that individual registration and profiling of refugees is conducted in order to capture specific needs and vulnerabilities of the newly-arrived population and to provide targeted responses. Where feasible, biometrics will be used to enhance the effectiveness of registration systems. Particularly important will be the follow-up on the registration in Sudan and in Uganda where the Government has taken the overall responsibility for refugee registration.

As more than two years have passed since the beginning of the crisis in South Sudan, and as the refugee response has been progressively consolidated in the countries of asylum, it has become imperative to strengthen the emphasis on interventions that promote self-reliance, build resilience, and seek longer-term solutions for South Sudanese refugees despite challenges including funding constraints. In this regard, Regional RRP partners will work closely with Government counterparts to uphold a conducive legal and policy environment for asylum that ensures that refugees can have access to national services in order to bridge the gap from humanitarian assistance to development.



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