Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The situation in South Sudan remains tense. A total of 677 refugees arrived from South Sudan during the period of September 29th to 12th October, through Elegu and Kuluba collection points compared to 482 new arrivals for the period of September 18-28 with an average daily arrival of 34 individuals. This is down from 1,559 new arrivals received in the first half of September and 802 as of September 26. There was a significant increase following reports of attacks by armed groups in Pageri village located between Juba, Nimule and Malakal even though the signing of the peace deal between the warring factions of President Salva Kiir and Riek Machar happened already. New arrivals are mostly of Madi ethnicity, from the Eastern Equatorial State, followed by the Dinka and the Nuer.
with most of them being women, children and the elderly. The refugees mainly come from Eastern and Western Equatoria; Jonglei and Upper Nile areas citing famine; fighting between armed groups in Pari, Malakal and Bentui. The new arrivals are citing hunger and congestion in the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) compound and lack of social services as reasons for fleeing South Sudan. Other reasons include formation of unspecified new rebel groups, community killings and abduction of people from their homes and conflict over resources—grazing pasture/land, which they claim to have taken a political dimension.

In Arua and Adjumani Districts, the Department of Refugees, in the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), conducted a three-day consultative review workshop on the 2006 Refugee Act and 2020 Refugee Regulations. UNICEF participated, along with partners, district officials, local councils, and refugee welfare councils. Some inconsistent and conflicting provisions have been observed in the existing Act. There are also some new relevant laws resulting from dynamism propagated by terrorism, smuggling, and trafficking that call for review if refugee rights are to be respected. OPM is undertaking field consultations, with the exercise estimated to take six months (at district level) before national review.

Office of the Prime Minister has assessed two proposed new settlements of Latodo and Agojo in Adjumani district for future settlement. Agojo is the preferred site because it is an old settlement with some facilities and a nearby secondary school that requires rehabilitation and has a capacity to settle approximately 10,000 people. UNHCR has conducted site planning of the two new proposed sites to host the additional refugees. In Arua District, following the increase in numbers, a new settlement has been set up to accommodate the new refugees. There are still gaps in health, nutrition, education, child protection and WASH services.

The refugees in Arua, Adjumani and Kiryandongo Districts celebrated the International Day of Peace in the settlements on the 21st of September under the theme, “Partnerships for Peace-Dignity for all.” The event was coordinated by OPM, UNHCR and partners. Presentations emphasized continued efforts to foster peace especially within refugees and hosting districts where inter-ethnic peaceful coexistence is strongly encouraged.

**Humanitarian leadership and coordination**

The Office of the Prime Minister and UNHCR are the lead coordinators in this response. The United Nations Country Team meets to allocate complementary functions in responding to the range of needs posed by the influx of refugees into Uganda. UNHCR sector coordinators support the efforts led by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM). UNICEF is supporting technically in WASH, Nutrition, Child Protection, Education and supporting harmonisation of approaches and response within UNHCR led coordination mechanisms. The Government of Uganda’s refugee policy pivots around integration into Ugandan community development which makes UNICEF’s model of engaging directly with district governments highly relevant. UNICEF’s strategic satellite office in Adjumani District within geographical vicinity to the affected population is functional and technical specialists participate in coordination. UNICEF has contributed to the inter-agency appeals for refugees from Burundi, DRC and South Sudan for 2015.

**Humanitarian Strategy**

The UNICEF humanitarian support to refugees in Uganda is based on inter-agency response planning and a longer term refugees and host communities empowerment framework (ReHoPE). Uganda Government allocates land to refugees with the aim of integrating them into local communities and service provision provided by the district government. This practice has significant resource implications compared to a policy based on encampment. To accommodate South Sudanese refugees, the government-led process, has established a range of humanitarian priorities that affect both refugees and host communities in Adjumani, Arua, Kiryandongo and Koboko District, and proposes a coordinated response to those challenges. Due to the recent increase in new arrivals, Office of the Prime Minister has proposed expansion to new settlements of Latodo and Agojo in Adjumani district. UNICEF support to the districts caters for expansion of the routine social services in health, nutrition, WASH, education and child protection to reach both refugees and host communities.
Summary Analysis of Programme Response

UNICEF response with immediate needs of affected women and children amongst the South Sudanese refugees is currently focused on the following interventions;

Health and Nutrition

UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health to review and validate the nutrition guidelines comprising of Outpatient Therapeutic Care, supplementary feeding and community components of the integrated management of acute malnutrition. Similarly, support was given to develop the Inpatient therapeutic care guidelines for management of acute malnutrition with medical complications. UNICEF with Concern Worldwide continued to support capacity strengthening approaches for detection, treatment and prevention of acute malnutrition and specific activities with provision of equipment and supplies, mentoring of 203 health workers on Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices, support for mobilization on micronutrient supplementation, technical support for implementation of IMAM and promotion of key nutrition health messaging. UNICEF through its partner Concern World Wide established two new therapeutic feeding centres (TFC) in Arua district increasing the total number TFCs established to 100 from 98 in the four refugee hosting districts with a coverage of 69 per cent (100/144 Health facilities). At community level, 2,697 trained Village Health Teams carried out nutrition screening and referral, new-born care and integrated community case management (ICCM). Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) surveys on nutrition in Arua and Adjumani districts were conducted in September by UNICEF and Concern World Wide to better understand the drivers of malnutrition in the West Nile sub region that has some of the worst child nutrition indicators; findings will be ready for sharing at the end of October 2015.

South Sudanese children benefited from the national measles and polio immunisation campaign that took place from October 3-5, 2014. UNICEF supported the refugee hosting districts to carry out social mobilisation and monitoring of the activities at the district level.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion (WASH)

Some 48 people from UNHCR, DRC, LWF, Uganda Red Cross, Water Missions, OPM, Adjumani Local District government, and Ministry of Water and Environment participated in a water user awareness raising workshop in Gulu organized by UNICEF with partner Lutheran World Foundation (LWF) in coordination with UNHCR, OPM and District Local Government in Adjumani District. The workshop focused on operations and maintenance strategies for boreholes, sustaining sanitation and hygiene promotion and setting standards for various services in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene sector in refugee context. Refugees from Baratuku and Boroli settlements participated as well. Members of refugee welfare committees agreed to start contributing towards operations and maintenance of their water points effective October 2015. UNICEF continued to repair/rehabilitate boreholes at Adjumani, Arua and Kiyandongo district with its implementing partners, to respond to improved access to supply of quality water, ensuring satisfactory conditions of sanitation and hygiene. UNICEF supports building of latrines for persons with special needs, and encouraging the communities on management of solid waste in their neighbourhoods and market areas through Community Led Total Sanitation. During September, UNICEF interventions focussed on operations and maintenance of water systems, building positive knowledge and behaviour amongst the target communities on safe water and clean sanitation and hygiene practices. Three hybrid Solar and Motor powered Water Schemes were completed with UNICEF’s support, two are at Kiyandongo settlement and one at Siripi, Rhino settlements. In partnership with Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and LWF, focus on hygiene promotion was scaled up. Messages on good sanitation, hand washing with water and soap before eating meals, and after use of latrines were disseminated. In Kiyandongo District, safe water chain in 271 households were assessed and monitored, 650 refugees in nine clusters were reached for hygiene messages, four drainable latrines and four rubbish pits were constructed in four Child Friendly Spaces. A total of 65 Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs) latrines and 30 bath shelters were constructed. Environmental Cleaning campaigns in Bhakita and Candrom Primary School were conducted. Coverage of water access remained at 89 per cent in Adjumani district settlements, 91.1 per cent in Rhino settlements. The water coverage and access stands at 98 per cent in Kiyandongo.
Child Protection
A total of 30,844 (18,914 Males 11,930 females) children have been registered at 40 Child Friendly Spaces with an average monthly attendance of 16,228 (8,620 Males, 7,608 Females) children for the month of September. The Child Protection Information Management System officers are supporting case management in South Sudanese response districts of Arua, Adjumani and Kiryandongo and over 3,594 (1,936 males, 1,659 Females) separated children have gone through the different processes to restore and maintain family links and several other children undergoing verification exercise using the Rapid Family Tracing and Reunification (FTR) system. Over 304 (158 males 146 females) separated children were registered between 23rd August and 23rd September, 2015. Most family separations have been on a voluntary basis and this accounts for 60 (39 males and 21 females) accomplished reunifications with active tracing to reunify over 216 children. Psychosocial support and recreational activities in 40 child friendly spaces (CFS) in the three districts hosting refugees have been conducted.

Education in Emergencies
The Parents and Teachers’ Association (PTA), School Management Committees (SMCs), parents and community leaders’ sensitization on conflict drivers and conflict sensitive education was organized and benefited 519 (307 male and 212 female) members from six different primary schools in Adjumani and Kiryandongo Districts. This created awareness on the importance of conflict sensitive education and methodology. It also strengthened the roles of parents and teachers in conflict resolution and increased the capacity of PTA, SMC and community leaders on how to prevent, reduce and cope with conflict in schools and community at large. In addition, Africa Development Corps conducted support field visits to the schools, child friendly spaces and adolescent centres to follow up on peace building activities and the usage of recreational and sports items both in Adjumani and Kiryandongo. Anecdotal observations noted that children are involved in peaceful sports activities with proper utilization of items.

To date 9,048 (4,671 boys and 4,377 girls) children have been enrolled and are accessing the ECCD Centres. In addition, UNICEF also through Africa Development Corps (ADC) in Kiryandongo have supported ECD through trainings where by 29 Centre Management Committee members were trained; eight parental training sessions conducted (412 parents trained); 35 training sessions with ECD caregivers that led to the ECD attendance increase up to a total of 598 children in the four government supported centres.

Thirteen (13) after school friendship clubs with 915 (438 Female, 477 Male) members were established in four primary schools in Kiryandongo and nine primary schools in Adjumani. School children in these clubs participate in debates, drama, songs and poems geared at developing different skills among children all with peace messages for peaceful co-existence. UNICEF also supported ADC to organize International Peace day events benefiting 2,780 children and 600 parents both in Adjumani and Kiryandongo refugee and host communities.

Communications for Development (C4D)
UNICEF and partners contribute to messaging on breastfeeding, nutrition, immunization, maternal health and water, sanitation and hygiene promotion. Community mobilization, communications capacity building amongst implementing partners facilitates organized coordination for communications in the settlements.

Media and External Communication
UNICEF Communications staff visited the refugee affected areas recently to document the stories of refugee children and women. Examples of stories published include “South Sudanese flow into Uganda despite peace deal” “More South Sudan refugees arrive in North” “Refugees to benefit from OPM and UN self-reliance programme” “UNICEF addresses malnutrition among South Sudanese refugee children” “Safe water, good sanitation and hygiene beget a healthy living for South Sudan refugees”. The media recently carried stories about the Information on the nutrition situation amongst refugees. UNICEF Campaign against Malnutrition in Refugee settlements pays off! https://youtu.be/pVVFQGJupc.
Security
Overall, the security situation in Adjumani, Kiryandongo and Arua districts remains stable. Uganda is rated medium risk by the United Nations Department of Safety and Security.

Funding
UNICEF is grateful to all donors for the contributions that have been carried over from 2014 and grant support from ECHO and DFID received so far this year which have made the current response possible. There is still need for continued donor support to women and children in this response.

<table>
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<th>Appeal Sector</th>
<th>Original 2015 HAC Requirement (US$)</th>
<th>Funds Received Against 2015 HAC (US$)</th>
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Date of the Next Sitrep: 15 November, 2015

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