Highlights
Since the 15th of December, fighting in South Sudan has displaced more than 1 million people within South Sudan (OCHA, June 20), and led to the outflow of asylum seekers into neighbouring countries. Uganda has received a large number of them, registering more than 115,000 South Sudanese refugees between December and the beginning of June. Uganda has a long history of receiving and hosting asylum seekers from South Sudan. For those fleeing the latest outbreak of violence, the Government of Uganda (GoU) is offering refugee status on a prima facia basis.

- More than 100,000 women and 75,000 children have now arrived in Uganda from South Sudan, making up more than 87% of the refugee population.
- In line with the regional contingency planning process, the UNCT has revised its planning figures (and is currently amending the associated appeal) to 300,000 refugees in 2014. This SitRep reflects those revised planning figures.
- An urban refugee registration is currently ongoing in Kampala to identify additional refugees who have bypassed the transit centers in the north. So far, 4,050 additional refugees have been registered this way.
- Cholera—which is endemic in the region—has been identified and contained in Arua and neighboring Moyo districts. A national cholera response plan is in place should additional cases be identified.
- UNICEF is actively partnering with refugees and host communities by providing interventions that benefit both—for example by the installation of dual-use boreholes and supporting schools attended by both Sudanese and Ugandan students.

Funding
Funding Requirements (as defined in the revised Humanitarian Appeal for South Sudanese refugees) for a period of 12 months

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Appeal Sector</th>
<th>Requirements**</th>
<th>Funds received*</th>
<th>Funding gap</th>
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<td>$7,500,000</td>
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<td>Child Protection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$32,400,000</td>
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<td>$28,181,716</td>
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* Funds received does not include pledges.
** UNICEF’s requirements have been revised upwards from USD21.4 million to USD32.4 million to respond to the increasing number of South Sudanese refugees in Uganda. The Inter-Agency Appeal for the South Sudanese Refugee Emergency (January - December 2014), to be revised and launched by the end of June 2014, will reflect UNICEF Uganda’s new requirements.

116,989
# of refugees who have crossed into Uganda since 16 December (UNHCR, 24 June, 2014)

101,780
# of women and children (87%)

76,043
# of children under the age of 18 (65%)
Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Despite the warring parties’ June 11th commitment to form a transitional government, the security situation in South Sudan remains volatile, with periodic clashes and a large military presence reported around the country. More than one million people remain displaced both inside and outside South Sudan. Partly due to this insecurity, the food security situation is increasingly desperate in the most conflict affected parts of the country, with between 50%-71% of the population in “emergency” or “crisis” IPC phases.

Uganda has contributed troops to support the SPLA military operations in the north and east of South Sudan. This involvement and support of the SPLA may affect the degree to which minority groups (particularly Nuer) feel comfortable seeking asylum in Uganda. In addition to those who have registered as refugees, a significant number of South Sudanese are already in Uganda, but have not filed an asylum claim. If the security situation in South Sudan does not improve, it is thought that some of these families will be forced to turn to support from the GoU and aid agencies. This could further drive up the registration numbers and drain existing resources. UNHCR is currently undertaking an urban registration of refugees in Kampala for individuals who have bypassed the settlements in the north of the country.

The Government of Uganda has a progressive refugee policy which allocates land to refugees with the aim of integrating them into local communities and service provision provided by the district government. While in many ways this constitutes a “best practice,” it has significant resource implications compared to a policy based on encampment.

The districts where South Sudanese refugees are currently being settled are Arua, Adjumani, and Kyirandongo where the district local government is stretched far beyond capacity in seeking to respond to the needs posed by the influx. In all of these districts there is an urgent need to improve service provision to meet the increased demand. Health centers require additional staff, space, and supplies as they absorb patients from among the refugee community and are faced with a surge of cases of diseases and malnutrition. School enrollment has increased dramatically, with up to 300 students per classroom in Adjumani. UNICEF is committed to supporting the GoU approach of integrating refugees into local service provision, and is working closely with the district local government and host communities to provide support. As settlement land in Adjumani is running out, the Government of Uganda has secured additional land in the neighboring district of Yumbe. Guidance has recently been received that newly arriving refugees will soon be settled in Yumbe rather than Adjumani, so a range of negotiations and preparations are taking place to accommodate the expansion to this additional district.

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

The UN Country Team has met numerous times to delineate complementary functions in responding to the range of needs posed by the influx of refugees into Uganda. UNHCR has brought in sector coordinators to support the efforts led by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM). These individuals serve a coordination function, but UNICEF is providing technical leadership in areas related to its mandate. This includes Water and Sanitation, health and nutrition for children and lactating mothers, child protection and emergency education. Because the GoU’s refugee policy pivots around integration into Ugandan communities, UNICEF’s model of engaging directly with district governments is highly relevant. UNICEF participated in an inter-agency assessment led by the OPM, and has established a satellite office in Adjumani. From this office, technical specialists are participating in coordination efforts and working with the district to provide health, nutrition, and education support to refugees.

Humanitarian Strategy

The UNICEF humanitarian support to refugees from South Sudan is based on inter-agency response planning which has taken place over the past five months. This government-led process, has established a range of humanitarian priorities that affect both refugees and host communities in Adjumani, Arua, Kyirandongo and Koboko, and proposes a coordinated response to those challenges. All of these interventions have been designed in line with UNICEF’s Core Commitments for Children to reduce
morbidity and mortality and ensure protection and participation of affected populations. The key programme priorities for UNICEF are: outbreak prevention, including mass vaccinations and support to districts to increase routine vaccination services; WASH support to provide clean water and prevent disease outbreak; scaling up nutrition support and response through the training of nutritionists and the supply of therapeutic foods; protection and provision of psychosocial support for children—including separated children identified through rapid FTR; and education and early childhood learning services for refugee and host community children.

**Summary Analysis of Programme Response**

**Nutrition**

Findings from UNICEF’s in-depth nutrition assessment among South Sudanese Refugees showed high levels of Global Acute Malnutrition (19.9%) and Severe Acute Malnutrition (4.5%) as well as a high percentage of mothers (56.4%) who are underweight. UNICEF has already scaled up nutrition support by deploying therapeutic foods, establishing 17 outpatient treatment centers and training 40 health workers to identify and treat malnutrition in Arua, Adjumani and Kiryandongo. In response to these findings, support has been rapidly scaled up and more than 1,000 children have already been treated for SAM. UNICEF has also brought on board a partner who has completed a physical facility assessment in the four districts of Arua, Koboko, Adjumani, and Kiryandongo. A total of 75 health facilities have been identified and will be supported with the establishment of additional OTCs and ITCs. Mapping of hard to reach areas is currently ongoing to identify hot spots where mobile clinics are needed. Mass screening of all children under 5 years using MUAC is planned in Arua in July and will coincide with Family Health Days. Recruitment of a national officer to support the nutrition response is currently underway. The individual will be based in Adjumani and work closely with implementing partners in the field.

**Health**

In response to outbreaks of measles and meningitis, UNICEF has implemented targeted vaccination campaigns (including vaccinations against meningitis measles and polio) throughout the three districts. In total more than 65,000 refugee children in Arua, Adjumani, and Kiryandongo have received vaccinations. New arrivals are being vaccinated at the transit centers before they arrive at the settlements and periodic mop-up campaigns are in place to ensure full coverage. In response to an outbreak of cholera in Arua and Moyo Districts in early May, UNICEF rapidly deployed medical supplies and set up an isolation ward. Contingency plans for cholera outbreaks in Adjumani and Kiryandongo are also in place. A training of village health teams in the four district will take place over the coming two weeks while UNICEF identifies the critical infrastructure and supply needs in key health centers affected by the refugee influx.

**WASH**

In accordance with its mandate and technical expertise and in collaboration with UNHCR and OPM, UNICEF is supporting with the provision of clean water, hygiene and sanitation in the refugee affected areas. This is in the refugee settlements in the districts of Arua, Adjumani and Kiryandongo. A full-time WASH officer has already been deployed to the refugee affected areas, but additional international capacity has been requested through a standby agreement to provide technical coordination of UNICEF interventions in the field. To date, 45 boreholes have been drilled, and 20 more have been rehabilitated and are serving approximately 37,500 refugees. In May this year, an assessment was done, the result of which was the identification of high yielding boreholes, which will be motorized in order to serve institutions and sites of high population within the refugee settlements. It is planned that these activities will commence in July 2014. Two implementing partners, LWF and Water Mission Uganda have been identified but PCA is still in progress to carry out the borehole motorization. Working with implementing partners, a KAP survey on water consumption, sanitation and hygiene behaviour was carried out to identify the present gaps in knowledge, attitudes and practices among the refugee community. This information is guiding UNICEF’s hygiene and sanitation education support being provided through implementing partners.

Currently, UNICEF is in the process of stockpiling borehole spare parts in order to ensure quick response to any possible maintenance issues that could arise with newly drilled and rehabilitated boreholes. Arrangements have been made to monitor water quality of the water points, together with the implementing partners and District Water Officers, thus ensuring the provision of safe water. In partnership with Danish Refugee Council, UNICEF has provided 4,000 latrine slabs, 8,000 poles, and 16,000 logs to support the construction of household latrines. Additionally UNICEF is supporting the construction of 51 blocks of communal latrines and 51 blocks of communal bath shelters in the newest settlement of Adjumani, Ailo-2. These will fill the sanitation gap while newly arriving refugees are mobilized to construct their own household latrines. Effective micro-organisms (EMO) were deployed immediately to increase the capacity of latrines while additional ones are being constructed. EMO is being applied to latrine pits in the settlements, reception centres, health units and child friendly spaces. Through construction of new latrine blocks, UNICEF has also supported a total of 6 schools where enrolment is stretched due to the arrival of additional refugee students.
**Child Protection:**
UNICEF, with its partner, Save the Children, is registering separated children, using Rapid Family Tracing and Reunification (Rapid FTR), as well as providing foster care services. UNICEF has set up three child friendly spaces and plans and siting for an additional 15 is underway. An in-depth child protection assessment is planned which will probe further into the range of psychosocial and child protection needs among the refugees. International surge capacity has been secured and the staff member has been deployed to Adjumani. A national officer has been recruited and will be deployed to Adjumani full-time in the coming weeks.

**Education in Emergencies:**
Approximately half of the refugees are of school-going age (3-17). Based on the recent enrolment figures approximately 40% of the children are currently enrolled in schools. Since basic education structures and facilities are in place, UNICEF is focusing on establishing Early Childhood Education (ECD) centres and supporting the existing government primary school. However since the existing structures are far too small to accommodate the increased enrolment, a plan has been developed to construct additional classrooms to increase school enrolment capacities and construct temporary classrooms in temporary learning spaces inside the settlements. A range of supplies have been released to 24 schools including: 100 “School in a Box” kits; 46 Early Childhood Development Kits; 36 Recreation Kits and 57 tents. UNICEF also supported the development of a short-course for the teachers identified among the refugees and the training will take place shortly. Partnership agreements for implementation of ECD activities in Arua and Adjumani have been finalized and the implementation is starting. UNICEF also supported the Ministry of Education of Sports also oriented all the implementing partners and district stakeholders in all the districts hosting refugees in the government approach for community-based ECD model.

**Communications for Development (C4D)**
By using Ureport, UNICEF was able to poll 18,674 young people in the affected districts on 8th January 2014 by asking them whether their community had been affected by the arrival of refugees from South Sudan. A U-report dashboard was created exclusively for all emergency related messages received so that UNICEF Field Coordination & Emergency Operations as well as the Office of the Prime Minister are able to monitor feedback from the affected communities in real-time and respond accordingly to the situation on the ground. U-Report will now be rolled out in the refugee settlement as well, so that UNICEF can utilize this two-way communication tool to improve service provision and emergency response efforts. The use of Rapid FTR continues to assist in the reunification process of families that were separated as they fled to Uganda. The upcoming Family Health Days in April 2014 will allow refugee communities, especially children and women, to access various services including immunisation, Vitamin A supplementation, deworming, antenatal care and post natal care.

**Supply and Logistics**
Based on initial 2014 contingency planning figures for influxes from both Congo and South Sudan, a range of humanitarian supplies had been prepositioned in Kampala. These emergency stocks were distributed rapidly, depleting initial stocks. UNICEF Uganda has rotated in additional supplies from nearby countries, put logistics surge capacity in place and secured a $1 million internal EPF loan to support immediate needs.

**Media and External Communication**
UNICEF Uganda has provided local and international news media with background information on the influx of refugees, including facts about the Fund’s interventions. Media engagement included CNN online, France TV, BBC Swahili, Xhinua, and Xhinua TV. The New Vision, Daily Monitor, and The Observer newspapers and 20 radio stations were also provided with information on the situation. UNICEF Communications staff have visited the refugee affected areas to document the stories of refugee children and women.

**Security**
Overall, the security situation in Adjumani and Arua remains relatively good. The Uganda Police and military have increased their presence throughout the area to make sure law enforcement officials are available to address any issues that might arise. There continue to be tensions around the allocation of land to refugees, but the Office of the Prime Minister has taken a proactive approach to navigating these challenges.

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