

# SOUTH SUDAN CRISIS UGANDA UPDATE FACT SHEET



July 2014

## CHILDREN AT RISK IN SOUTH SUDAN CRISIS

Since mid-December 2013, Uganda has received thousands of South Sudanese refugees escaping the conflict between the Government of South Sudan and the rebel faction of Riek Machar through two entry points. The refugees have settled in camps in the West Nile districts of Arua and Adjumani, along with Kiryandongo on the edge of central Uganda. The number of South Sudanese refugees in the country is now 119,003. According to adjusted statistics provided by the Office of the Prime Minister, 65 percent of these refugees are children under the age of 18 years. Women and children comprise 87 percent of the total refugee population. Save the Children is responding to this emergency, with interventions that are targeting 25% of this case load, which translates to 75,000 refugees.

### Current Situation

Arua district has received and assisted 11,219 individuals since 16th December (UNHCR, 8th July). The weekly arrivals are at between 0 -50 persons. Adjumani District has received and assisted a total of 77,475 refugees since 16th December (UNHCR, 8th July). The refugees are being hosted in Nyumanzi Transit Center and in nine settlements including the new settlements of Nyumanzi, Ayilo I & II, Baratuku and Boroli as well as other smaller existing refugee sites. Kiryandongo district has received and assisted a total of 25,635 (in 6,174 households) South Sudanese refugees since 16th December (UNHCR, 8th July). Some 22,500 individuals have been relocated to Kiryandongo refugee settlement while 950 individuals are currently being assisted at Kiryandongo reception centre.

### Our Response

With funding from Save the Children members and UNICEF, the Uganda Country program has actively contributed to the response in Arua and Adjumani districts since January 2014. In July, we opened up operations in Kiryandongo district. Save the Children's programmes have so far reached 22,756 children out of a total of 52,953 beneficiaries. The overall response covers:

**1. Child Protection** - This includes family tracing and reunification, establishment of foster care arrangements for unaccompanied minors, home-based follow-up visits with vulnerable children, case management within a referral network and child friendly space (CFS) activities.

Save the Children has constructed five child-friendly spaces (three in Adjumani district and two in Arua district). Seven more are expected to be set up in Adjumani. Additionally, Save the Children is strengthening child protection structures where they exist and establishing these structures where they



Save the Children child protection volunteer Khamis Emmanuel Napoleon shows a South Sudanese refugee child how to draw a car at the Baratuku child-friendly space, which is run by the organization. Photo: Sylvia Nabanoba/Save the Children

are nonexistent in the focus areas of the camps.

**2. Provision of non-food items** - Save the Children has procured and delivered NFI's for vulnerable children and families, including blankets, mosquito nets, shoes, female hygiene products and clothing.

**3. Support to the WASH sector** — This involves desludging of latrines at health facilities; the installation of rain water tanks; distribution of soap and hygiene promotion.

**4. Education** – Save the Children plans to establish early childhood development centres and to expand the capacity of existing schools to provide lower primary school education.

- Uganda is host to a total of 119,003 South Sudanese refugees, 65% of whom are children.
- Save the Children is responding to this emergency in the three locations of Adjumani, Arua and Kiryandongo.
- Save the Children's programmes have so far reached 22,756 children out of a total of 52,953 beneficiaries, which is 42% of the total number of people reached.



South Sudanese children study under a tree in a makeshift primary school in Ayilo I resettlement camp, Adjumani.  
Photo: Mark Kaye/Save the Children



A midwife (left) checks on a two-week-old South Sudanese baby at Nyumanzi Health Centre II in Nyumanzi resettlement camp, Adjumani  
Photo: Sylvia Nabanoba/Save the Children



South Sudanese children dance at Save the Children's child-friendly centre in Baratuku resettlement camp, Adjumani  
Photo: Mark Kaye/Save the Children

## EXISTING GAPS

Although the situation of access to food and social services for the South Sudanese refugee caseload has greatly improved, gaps still exist, occasioned by the sheer number of people, the stretched funding environment and the corresponding limited number of actors involved in the response.

### The major gaps include:

- Within the Arua and Adjumani settlements, there are major gaps in the child protection intervention resulting from the large numbers of children and the limited number of actors involved in the child protection response.
- Huge gaps in access to basic education, including early childhood development and child protection, continue to exist in the refugee settlements in Arua, Adjumani and Kiryandongo districts. Children's vulnerability is compounded and they

are at a higher risk of sexual abuse, physical harm and economic exploitation.

- In Arua and Adjumani district, big gaps continue to exist in the WASH sector due to the low coverage of safe water and latrines. This situation is particularly important given the fact that the region is prone to water-borne disease epidemics.
- Peace education programs should be set up to encourage understanding, tolerance, and commitment for peaceful co-existence among the refugees.
- Health - The absence of infant and young child feeding initiatives places the health of young children at risk. There is also a need for initiatives targeting girls of reproductive age, pregnant mothers and newborns. A high birth rate coupled with low contraception use places the lives of mothers and newborns at risk.

“Education can ultimately help bring an end to this conflict. Education is the key to solving all social problems. The parents send their children to school, even if they do not have scholastic materials, or desks and chairs, because they do not want the children to be illiterate like them (parents),” says Kut Bol, formerly a secondary school teacher in Bor, South Sudan, and now teaching voluntarily in a makeshift primary school in Ayilo I resettlement camp, Adjumani district, Uganda.