

SOUTH SUDAN CRISIS

UGANDA UPDATE

FACT SHEET



June 2014

CHILDREN AT RISK IN SOUTH SUDAN CRISIS

Since the middle of 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 107,957. 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.

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. We plan to extend operations to Kiryandongo district. The 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). Additionally, Save the Children is strengthening child protection structures where they exist and establishing these structures where they are nonexistent in the focus areas of the camps. The current intervention in Arua and Adjumani is directly reaching 7776 (14%) out of 55235 children in Arua and Adjumani districts.

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.



A young girl and her grandmother wait to be resettled from a transit camp in Adjumani district, West Nile, Uganda.
Photo: Rebecca Vassie/Save the Children

3. Support to the WASH sector — Desludging of latrines at health facilities; Installation of rain water tanks; distribution of laundry soap and hygiene promotion.

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

- Uganda is hosting a total of 107,957 South Sudanese refugees, 65% of whom are children.
- Save the Children is supporting the overall response in the Adjumani clusters and Rhino camp in Arua district.
- Save the Children will upscale the South Sudanese emergency response to include Kiryandongo refugee settlement, which is situated in Masindi district on the northern edge of the central region.



A staff member of Save the Children talks to some of the children in Nyumanzi refugee settlement, Adjumani district.
Photo: Topher Mugumya/Save the Children



Children play at one of Save the Children's child-friendly centres.
Photo: Rebecca Vassie/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 waterborne 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.

“I would love to go back to school. I loved learning, and English was my best subject. I miss my friends, too. I hope the war ends soon and we go back home,” says 13-year-old Abraham.