Over 85,000 South Sudanese refugees arrive in 2017

More than 85,000 South Sudanese refugees have arrived in Sudan since the beginning of 2017, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) said in its latest inter-agency operational update on the South Sudanese Refugee Response. UNHCR estimates that nearly 380,000 refugees have fled to Sudan since December 2013. UNHCR and partners are now anticipating that up to 180,000 new arrivals from South Sudan may arrive by the end of 2017.

The highest number of new arrivals during the first quarter of 2017 was reported in East Darfur State, which accounts for nearly 40 per cent of new arrivals in 2017 so far.

2017 new South Sudanese refugee arrivals in Sudan by state

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Number of new refugees</th>
<th>% of new arrivals in 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East Darfur</td>
<td>33,483</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Nile</td>
<td>25,065</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Kordofan</td>
<td>15,326</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Kordofan</td>
<td>8,220</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Darfur</td>
<td>3,033</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>85,127</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

About 20,500 refugees in East Darfur near South Sudan border

Between 16-18 March, a border monitoring mission led by Sudan’s Office of the Commissioner for Refugees (COR) and the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) in East Darfur identified an estimated 20,500 refugees residing in the Kalama, Umazelti and Abu Simsim areas near the Sudan-South Sudan border. This was followed by an inter-agency mission, led by UNHCR and COR, on 22-25 March to identify the needs and verify the figures of these new arrivals. The refugees are reported to have been arriving since January 2017. They are currently being supported by host communities but are in need of humanitarian assistance.
As an initial interim response, the national NGO Sanad Charity provided 1,500 refugee families (an estimated 9,000 people) with food parcels in the three locations between 18 and 26 March. The food assistance provided consisted of sorghum flour, pulses, cooking oil and pasta. According to the local authorities, these refugees need to be relocated to the nearest refugee camps or sites as it is expected that the area may flood once the rainy season starts in April/May.

Relocation from Raja old camp to Al Nimir camp, East Darfur

On 3 April, UNHCR and COR started the relocation of South Sudanese refugees from Raja old settlement in Ed Daein town to Al Nimir site (15 Km West of Ed Deain town). Al Nimir is one of the two refugee sites, which were set up for new refugee arrivals in 2016 after being identified as suitable for refugee relocations by East Darfur authorities (Kario and Al Nimir). Al Nimir is the suggested site for the relocation of refugees coming from Raja in South Sudan.

Registration of South Sudanese refugees in El Lait, North Darfur

On 26 March, UNHCR and COR began household-level registration for approximately 19,500 South Sudanese refugees in Al Lait locality, North Darfur, who were identified in February of this year. So far, over 2,000 refugees have been registered, with the exercise expected to conclude in mid-April. The registration will facilitate the refugees’ access to immediate food as well as shelter and household supplies. Following the February mission, UNHCR has established an inter-agency Refugee Working Group (RWG) in North Darfur—co-chaired by COR—as the main coordination forum for the response.

First aid convoy leaves El Obeid, Sudan for Bentiu in South Sudan

On 30 March, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) began to move food assistance to reach famine-affected and food-insecure people in South Sudan using a new humanitarian corridor opened by the Government of Sudan earlier in March. The new route enables WFP to transport food assistance overland from El Obeid in central Sudan to Bentiu area in Unity State, South Sudan. The first convoy of 27 trucks carrying an initial 1,200 metric tons (MT) of sorghum started moving from El Obeid in central Sudan towards Bentiu in South Sudan on 30 March. The convoy arrived in Bentiu on 6 April after 8 days of travel. In the next few weeks, WFP plans to deliver 12,000 MT of sorghum; enough food to feed 203,000 people for one month. On 12 April, WFP plans to dispatch the second convoy carrying 1,000 MT of sorghum to Bentiu, South Sudan.
Following the eruption of violence in South Sudan in December 2013, WFP has been moving food assistance through a corridor linking White Nile State in Sudan with Upper Nile State in South Sudan. To date, thanks to an agreement first signed between Sudan and South Sudan in July 2014, WFP has moved over 62,456 MT of assorted commodities through this corridor into South Sudan.

At least 7.5 million people across South Sudan—almost two thirds of the population—need humanitarian assistance.

Since July 2014, WFP has moved over 57,900 MT of food aid into South Sudan through Sudan

UNICEF reaches previously inaccessible areas in Blue Nile, Central and South Darfur

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) has been granted access to a few hard-to-reach areas such as Kurmuk (Blue Nile State), Golo (Central Darfur State) and Belle El Serief (South Darfur State), the latter had not been accessible for over five years. UNICEF has begun working with government authorities, state officials and partners to bring long overdue assistance, including child protection, education, health, nutrition, water and sanitation services to the vulnerable communities in the newly reached areas.

Kurmuk, Dindero, Jort and Bolang receive water and education assistance

In Blue Nile State, UNICEF, through the State Ministry of Health (SMoH) managed to assign additional staff to Kurmuk hospital and provided health centres with medical supplies enough for two-months. In addition to two mobile clinics that serve about 15 villages UNICEF—in coordination with SMoH—plans to train 100 healthcare providers and community health workers, including midwives. Through UNICEF support, the SMoH conducted training for 16 nutrition care providers and established four supplementary feeding programmes.

Aid organisations—with UNICEF support—distributed chlorine tablets in Dindiro town for household water treatment, and installed two water bladders (with a capacity of 10,000 litres each). This is in addition to 260 barrels of water to that are trucked in daily, benefitting 10,000 people in the town. In Dindiro, Kurmuk town, Jurut East, Jurut West and Bulang, UNICEF, IRW and WES have started rehabilitating 20 hand pumps. UNICEF is also assisting in the rehabilitation and construction of 10 schools in these areas and will provide school supplies, benefitting 2,855 children.

There were also 105 separated and unaccompanied children in Bulang, Dindiro, Jurut East, Jurut West and Kurmuk town who received assistance. The children were placed with families—who were trained on alternative care measures and psychosocial support—and were provided with plastic sheets and sitting mats. The children were also provided with birth registration services and medical insurance.
Health, education and water services in Golo, Central Darfur

In Central Darfur, UNICEF has supported the SMoH in establishing a cold chain in Golo hospital and has provided the necessary vaccines, while routine vaccination has begun at the hospital. Health kits and essential medicines have also been provided to the Golo hospital through SMoH. For education, UNICEF and the State Ministry of Education (SoME) have begun providing classroom seating, recreation kits and School in a Box kits benefitting 3,000 students in five schools in Golo. For water assistance, UNICEF supported the Government’s Water and Environmental Sanitation Department (WES) in Golo, to drill six hand pumps and build one mini water yard. UNICEF has also provided enough chlorine to treat all water sources in Golo. Regarding Nutrition, UNICEF supported IMC, CRS and SMoH in establishing 6 Nutrition feeding centers (OTPs) with 700 cartons of Plumpy Nuts (UTF) provided. Furthermore, 8 Nutrition cadres were trained to operate the inpatient feeding center inside the hospital. For Health, 15 community health workers (CHWs) from Golo locality, were trained on Integrated Community Case Management (ICCM).

People in Belle El Serif, South Darfur receive water and sanitation assistance

In Belle El Serif village, South Darfur, UNICEF and the international NGO Oxfam America, are sensitising the community on proper hygiene practices. In addition, 905 household latrines were built for 5,500 people. Furthermore, UNICEF has supported the construction of one dam and one well in Deribat town, benefitting 15,000 people from the town and surrounding villages. Three hand pumps were rehabilitated in Belle El Sereif, supporting 1,500 people. Humanitarians estimate that about 46 per cent of the population in Belle El Sereif are children. UNICEF coordinated the efforts and led the assessment, the above mentioned activities achieved in Belle El Sereif, are done by UNICEF partner Oxfam America.

Humanitarian organisations provide assistance to 3.9 million people in Sudan in 2016

In 2016, 3.9 million people in Sudan received humanitarian assistance from the UN and humanitarian partners operating within the framework of Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). Some highlights below provide an overview of selected achievements by HRP partners. These successes would not have been possible without strong cooperation between UN agencies, NGOs and the Government of Sudan. Donor contributions in 2016 amounted to about US$567 million for HRP activities and an additional $81 million for humanitarian assistance outside of the HRP.

Key achievements in 2016:

- **3.9 million** people across Sudan received food assistance in 2016, including 2.4 IDPs in Darfur;
- **Over 500,000** people received emergency and transitional shelters, and essential non-food items;

Health, education and water services in Golo, Central Darfur

In Central Darfur, UNICEF has supported the SMoH in establishing a cold chain in Golo hospital and has provided the necessary vaccines, while routine vaccination has begun at the hospital. Health kits and essential medicines have also been provided to the Golo hospital through SMoH. For education, UNICEF and the State Ministry of Education (SoME) have begun providing classroom seating, recreation kits and School in a Box kits benefitting 3,000 students in five schools in Golo. For water assistance, UNICEF supported the Government’s Water and Environmental Sanitation Department (WES) in Golo, to drill six hand pumps and build one mini water yard. UNICEF has also provided enough chlorine to treat all water sources in Golo. Regarding Nutrition, UNICEF supported IMC, CRS and SMoH in establishing 6 Nutrition feeding centers (OTPs) with 700 cartons of Plumpy Nuts (UTF) provided. Furthermore, 8 Nutrition cadres were trained to operate the inpatient feeding center inside the hospital. For Health, 15 community health workers (CHWs) from Golo locality, were trained on Integrated Community Case Management (ICCM).

People in Belle El Serif, South Darfur receive water and sanitation assistance

In Belle El Serif village, South Darfur, UNICEF and the international NGO Oxfam America, are sensitising the community on proper hygiene practices. In addition, 905 household latrines were built for 5,500 people. Furthermore, UNICEF has supported the construction of one dam and one well in Deribat town, benefitting 15,000 people from the town and surrounding villages. Three hand pumps were rehabilitated in Belle El Sereif, supporting 1,500 people. Humanitarians estimate that about 46 per cent of the population in Belle El Sereif are children. UNICEF coordinated the efforts and led the assessment, the above mentioned activities achieved in Belle El Sereif, are done by UNICEF partner Oxfam America.

Humanitarian organisations provide assistance to 3.9 million people in Sudan in 2016

In 2016, 3.9 million people in Sudan received humanitarian assistance from the UN and humanitarian partners operating within the framework of Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). Some highlights below provide an overview of selected achievements by HRP partners. These successes would not have been possible without strong cooperation between UN agencies, NGOs and the Government of Sudan. Donor contributions in 2016 amounted to about US$567 million for HRP activities and an additional $81 million for humanitarian assistance outside of the HRP.

Key achievements in 2016:

- **3.9 million** people across Sudan received food assistance in 2016, including 2.4 IDPs in Darfur;
- **Over 500,000** people received emergency and transitional shelters, and essential non-food items;
• **3.5 million** people were given access to sufficient improved drinking water;

• **3.5 million** outpatient consultations were completed;

• **195,000** asylum seekers, newly arrived refugees and South Sudanese were assisted with non-food items and/or emergency shelter;

• **125,500** people, including women and children, received individual or community-based psychosocial support and services;

• **108,000** children were given access to improved learning through provision of teaching and learning materials;

• **3.8 million** children under the age of five received vitamin A supplementation integrated with immunization services;

• **22,200** passengers were transported around Sudan by UNHAS.

### Government of Japan provides over US$3.5 million to support UNHCR and UNHAS operations in Sudan

The Government of Japan contributed US$ 2.5 million to UNHCR’s work in Sudan. The contribution will help ensure basic services for refugees as well as host communities in White Nile and East and South Darfur states, including water and sanitation facilities, shelter and child protection.

The Government of Japan also contributed $1 million towards the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) in Sudan, which is managed by WFP.

WFP will use this contribution to continue to provide reliable and safe air services to the humanitarian community, enabling travel to remote and hard-to-reach locations across Darfur and in central and eastern Sudan. In 2016, UNHAS flew a total of 4,280 hours, providing transporting 22,158 passengers from 78 organisations, including UN and NGO staff, government officials, donor representatives and diplomats. It also transported 120 MT of light cargo and carried out 13 medical evacuations. Currently, UNHAS has a fleet of five aircraft, including two fixed-wing aircraft and three helicopters.