

Alert

Uganda

Fresh fighting in South Sudan sparks mass movement of refugees into Uganda

Uganda, 21st of July 2016

1. Brief description of the emergency and impact

On July 9th renewed clashes broke out in the South Sudanese capital of Juba due to a reported power struggle between the SPLA in the government and the SPLA opposition. Hundreds of people have been killed in the fighting between rival armed groups, raising fears of a slide back into all-out conflict. The recent clashes have triggered a massive influx of South Sudanese refugees into Adjumani Refugee Settlement in Uganda. Majority of the refugees are entering through Elegu Border Point which is managed by Lutheran World Federation (LWF). Following the days of the clashes in Juba (July 12th 2016) Elegu Border Point has received over 14,100 new arrivals with about 13,000 of them arriving between the three day period of 17th and 20th of July. Refugees cite the fragile security situation, fighting, torture, forceful recruitment of youths, looting of properties and hunger as reasons for fleeing to Uganda. Women and children constitute 90 percent of new arrivals.

2. Why is an ACT response needed?

In Adjumani, the most recently opened site **PAGARINYA** is currently hosting nearly 7,000 refugees. The new influx is bound to exceed Pagarinya's maximum capacity of 12,000 refugees. The massive influx into Pagarinya has created significant gaps in core areas of WASH, shelter, NFIs, classrooms, teaching/learning materials and latrines. With the continued instability in South Sudan it is expected that new arrivals will continue to arrive Uganda at an unprecedented rate and there is an eminent need to identify new site/s or consider the expansion of existing ones. An ACT alliance response is needed to assist the refugees in Pagarinya and Elegu Border Point with access to basic needs such as food, water, shelter and classrooms.

3. National and international response

The Ugandan armed forces have tightened security along the borders. UNHCR and partners in Adjumani have activated the existing contingency plans and a rapid assessment a new settlement site is already underway to accommodate the massive influx of refugees. Internationally, some countries like Germany and Uganda have reportedly evacuated their citizens from South Sudan, with many South Sudanese refugees using the Ugandan armed forces as a shield to cross the border into Uganda.

4. ACT Alliance response

LWF and Finn Church Aid (FCA) are the main ACT Alliance members currently responding to the needs of new arrivals in Adjumani. In Pagarinya where new arrivals are being settled LWF is providing life-saving interventions in WASH, basic shelter, NFIs and management of the reception centre while FCA is constructing classrooms and providing furniture for schools. Once a new settlement is established to accommodate the influx, more support will be needed in the sectors of protection, WASH, NFI, education and livelihoods. LWF and FCA are in close contact and information sharing with our programs in the region namely Kenya (Kakuma), South Sudan (office currently relocated in Nairobi), and Ethiopia (Gambella). LWF and FCA will also solicit support from ACT alliance members in country to support this response.

5. Planned activities

LWF and FCA will enter new partnerships with the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and UNHCR to access new resources to cater for the new refugee caseload. A more detailed appeal and budget of 800,000 USD will be developed and shared with the Alliance in the coming week. According to preliminary findings LWF and FCA plan to execute the following activities at Elegu Border Point and Pagarinya Settlement: Rapid Assessment, NFI support, WASH interventions (bath shelters and latrines), SGBV Response, Prevention and Management, Cash Transfers, construction of Inclusive Classrooms and gender specific latrines, fencing of school sites, Back-to-School campaigns, support to teachers (training and sensitization) and the provision of teaching and learning aides.

6. Constraints

Delay in decision making by UNHCR/OPM affects strategies for mobilisation of the much needed funds. Financial resources required to meet the needs of the new and existing refugees seem to be dwindling. The eventual opening of the South Sudanese border will most likely lead to a massive exodus from South Sudan.

***Forum/Member (where no forum exists) contact information with phone numbers and Email address.
Communications contact information with phone numbers and Email address.***

Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to the Head of Finance and Administration, Line Hempel (Line.Hempel@actalliance.org).

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