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CABINET OFFICE	
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Dear Charlie,

### Plan International UK final project report - your ref: EMR057.16

I am delighted to enclose the final report for our project 'Emergency assistance for South Sudanese refugees in Uganda' which the Isle of Man Government funded in September 2016.

With your wonderful support we have been able to help over 20,000 girls, boys and their families who have fled terrible violence in South Sudan. Families have been provided with life-saving assistance and helped to live with dignity in refugee camps.

Thank you so much for your generous support.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about this project or Plan International's work in general. The support of the Isle of Man Government is so greatly appreciated.

With best wishes,  
Wonu

**Wonu Owoade**

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Plan international UK



**SUPPORTING REFUGEES:  
EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR  
SOUTH SUDANESE FAMILIES IN  
UGANDA**

## A huge thank you to the Isle of Man Government!

The 'Emergency assistance for South Sudanese refugees in Uganda' project you kindly supported back in September 2016 has now been completed. Thanks to the Isle of Man Government's generous funding, Plan International has helped over 20,000 girls, boys and their families who have fled terrible violence in South Sudan. Families have been provided with life-saving assistance and helped to live with dignity in refugee camps. Thank you so much.

Thanks to your support...



### OVER 7,000 YOUNG CHILDREN

are attending the child friendly spaces we established, where they learn and play in safety



### OVER 700 ADOLESCENT GIRLS

received kits to help them manage their menstrual health and to live with dignity in the camps



### 1,800 CHILDREN

are continuing their education in temporary classrooms and with the pens and books they need

"I'm so happy here. I cannot even see a soldier. I cannot even hear the voice of a gun. I am so happy now I'm in a school."

- Grace, 7 years old



# Emergency assistance for South Sudanese refugees in Uganda

Final Report

## The emergency

Violent clashes between government and opposition forces in South Sudan since the 7<sup>th</sup> of July 2016 have sparked a new refugee crisis. Faced with **one of the most severe, large-scale humanitarian crises in the world**, thousands of South Sudanese refugees fled into neighbouring Uganda

Over 70% of those arriving in Adjumani from South Sudan are children, who are arriving either alone or with female relatives, without any personal items. **They are traumatised by the events of the war, have lost family members and witnessed unimaginable acts of violence.**

The purpose of Plan International's ten month response was to provide immediate relief and support to over **8,000 children arriving in refugee camps and settlements in the northern district of Adjumani, Uganda**. Our response focused on providing shelter, clothing and essential hygiene and household items to the most vulnerable children.

**Thank you for supporting this vital work!**

## Our impact

We are proud to report that your donation has contributed tremendously to improving the **safety, wellbeing and living conditions of 20,826 South Sudanese refugee children and their families** living across two refugee settlements in the northern district of Adjumani, Uganda.

Thanks to your support of this project, shelters have been constructed and children and families have received clothes, household kits, water storage equipment and essential hygiene kits. Children were also supported to learn and play in child friendly spaces where they can be kept safe from abuse or exploitation and helped to resume their education in temporary classrooms and early learning centres.



Learning and playing in a safe space is crucial to helping children gain a sense of normalcy as quickly as possible

Specific achievements from the project include:

- **45 temporary shelters and 40 temporary latrines** were built for 200 families.
- **Child Friendly Spaces** have been established, where 7,432 children have come to play and get counselling support.
- **A temporary classroom** has been built for the youngest children to continue their learning.
- **Learning materials** including pens and exercise books have been provided to 1,800 children.
- **Essential Non-Food Items (NFIs) and hygiene kits** have been provided to over 2,500 people, including 778 adolescent girls.

## Voices from the project: Grace's story



Grace\* is 7 years old and lives in a refugee settlement in Northern Uganda with her aunt Esther. Esther doesn't have children of her own but looks after 7 nieces and nephews, including Grace.

When terrible violence broke out in Yei, her home village in South Sudan, Grace was in town with Esther. Grace's mother was working in the fields 5 miles away, but the situation was so dangerous they couldn't wait and fled immediately.

*"There were bullets, killings. You see a neighbour...a person can come, kick in the house and slaughter them. Now that causes chaos. [Grace] thought they were coming to kill us."*

Esther gathered as many of the children together that she could, including Grace's sister, and walked them on foot to the border. *"We came from Yei without anything except a saucepan."* The journey took five days, and they didn't eat anything for the entire time. Grace explained: *"Because I was hungry I couldn't carry anything, I was tired with the walking [but] I couldn't sleep."*

They arrived at the refugee camp in Uganda in August 2016. They have been supported through Plan International's project with clothes, mosquito nets, food and soap, and get clean water from a borehole in the settlement. Grace also attends an early learning centre five days a week that Plan International established. Here, very young children learn and play in a safe space and with trained caregivers. *"There's a skipping rope! See saw is my favourite thing to do"*, Grace tells us.

Grace had suffered extreme trauma; having witnessed terrible violence and being separated from her mother. Esther explains that when they first arrived Grace was *"very fearful and just wanted to be near her auntie"*. But Esther says that she has seen huge positive changes in Grace since receiving the support they needed and resuming her education. *"She's now eating, bathing, clean and she's happy. At first she was fearful but now she's playing with her friends and neighbours. She can continue at school with books and reading. She will be a good person in the future!"*



*"The children can sleep now. They can't hear gun shots. What they fear most is gun shots."*

It's easy to forget how young Grace is, as she has already experienced so much, and had to grow up far too quickly. But when we ask Grace what she hopes for the future, her answer could be the same as any other girl or boy her age:

*"I would like to wear nice clothes, be smart and for my hair to be neat."*

## Activities completed

### Established Child Friendly Spaces (CFS)

Many of the children arrived at the camp alone and separated from their families. With no safe space to come to every day, children living in the camps are incredibly vulnerable to neglect, exploitation or abuse. We built and established a CFS in that is currently attended by 1,370 children (656 girls and 714 boys) and helped to improve and support a further 11 existing CFS, attended in total by over 6,000 children. The spaces have contributed greatly towards addressing the psychosocial and protection needs of children through the range of activities they offer to help them overcome trauma; including structured play, music, dance, drama, counselling support and education services.

During the project, 10 awareness sessions were held in the CFS for parents and community members, attended by 281 women and 175 men. The topics covered included education, child protection and peaceful co-existence in a new country.



Children can now come to a Child Friendly Space every day and play with other children, overseen by trained volunteers

## The invisible needs of survivors

Plan International believes that emotional care should be prioritised in relief efforts alongside physical support. Our experience of working in refugee camps has shown the importance of child protection and emotional support for children who have been displaced by conflict and other emergencies. These children are denied the joys of a normal childhood, and are forced to grow up far too quickly and far from home.

*"Impact on the mind is often invisible. When you live through a disaster, there is a limit to what your mind can take, especially for small children – something has to give."* - Dr Unni Krishnan, former Plan International Head of Disaster Preparedness and Response

Child friendly spaces provide girls and boys with a place to just be children, have fun, and relax in the midst of often chaotic surroundings. Here children can play, draw, sing, express their feelings and emotions, and access care, protection and support, including one-to-one counselling. Child friendly spaces provide a safe haven where children can be themselves and regain a sense of normalcy.

### Established education services for young children

We have established temporary classrooms within the camp – prioritising pre-primary and primary school level – and constructed one semi-permanent classroom for early learning (children aged 0-5 years) to ensure that children’s learning is not significantly disrupted. We have also distributed **exercise books, maths sets, pens and stationary to 1,800 children**, and **early learning education kits to 400 children** which include black boards, crayons, pencils and indoor play materials.

### Built temporary shelters and latrines for foster families

In all, **45 shelters were built for families** hosting unaccompanied children. Water storage containers and kitchen equipment kits have also been provided to households. Unaccompanied and separated children are recorded and emergency foster families are identified to host and care for them. In the longer term, Plan International will aim to trace children’s parents and reunite families wherever possible.



Families arriving at the camp would be provided with tents for shelter. Secure and safe houses have now been constructed for many of these families.

### Distributed essential Non-Food Items (NFIs) to families

Essential items, including clothes, shoes, soap and mosquito nets have been given to 625 vulnerable girls and boys who arrived at the camps with little or no belongings. Unaccompanied children and children with disabilities were prioritised to receive these kits. A further **500 families (2,505 people)** also received household kits which included water storage containers, kitchen equipment, blankets and mosquito nets. These families were also selected based on their circumstances and vulnerability.

### Improved hygiene in the camps

We have **distributed hygiene kits** containing reusable sanitary pads, soap and underwear to 778 adolescent girls and young women. We also constructed handwashing facilities at two schools within the camp, and built 40 temporary latrines and hand washing facilities for households.



Families and adolescent girls collecting their household and hygiene kits, which have helped them to live comfortably



## Project management, sustainability and learning

### Community participation and sustainability

The project benefited significantly from a supportive operational environment, where Plan International Uganda has strong effective partnerships with ministries, other humanitarian actors and the local community. Community participation was central to the project to ensure the sustainability of the activities. For example, the community was involved at all stages in the implementation and monitoring of the project, as well as the selection of beneficiaries. In order to promote the ownership and sustainability of the project Plan International Uganda kept in close contact with key stakeholders. For instance the Child Friendly Spaces were operated in coordination with the local government and their continued engagement and responsibility for the spaces has been encouraged and secured by host and refugee communities with support from Plan International Uganda. These different levels of engagement have allowed for a smooth exit of Plan International Uganda so that there aren't expectations amongst families about continued support; though we will continue to monitor the situation and any further need for intervention.

### Challenges faced

The main challenge faced by the project was the high expectations of the beneficiaries. We responded to most of their needs and when we could not, made referrals to other services and resources.

## Project expenditure

The Isle of Man Government's kind donation of £25,000 has been spent in full, significantly contributing to Plan International Uganda's emergency response to address the growing needs of South Sudanese refugee children and their families. The response was delivered over a period of 10 months with a budget of approximately £105,000.



**Thank you so much for your support!**

