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For immediate release

Up to 2,000 South Sudanese refugees fleeing to Uganda every day

Thousands of children have fled from brutal fighting in South Sudan to neighbouring Uganda, warns War Child, the charity for children affected by conflict.

Drought, famine and a massively deteriorating security situation has forced more than 1.8 million people from South Sudan to seek safety in neighbouring Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Sudan, Central African Republic and Democratic Republic of Congo.

Up to 2,000 South Sudanese refugees are arriving in Uganda each day. Almost 90% of South Sudanese refugees entering Uganda are women and children.

Many of the children who are fleeing the conflict are unaccompanied or will have been separated from family members, and are at risk of recruitment by armed groups, violence and sexual exploitation.

These children are vulnerable, traumatised and in urgent need of food, water, shelter, education and psychosocial support, having witnessed or experienced disturbing violence.

Uganda's Bidi Bidi camp, the world's largest refugee camp, is now home to 272,000 South Sudanese, and new refugee settlements are opening every other month to deal with an overwhelming influx of people desperately in need of basic services.

Uganda alone is host to over 370,000 South Sudanese refugees settling mainly within the country's Northern and West Nile districts of Kiryandongo, Adjumani and Yumbe.

Tens of thousands of people have been killed in South Sudan, and almost two million people have been internally displaced.

Rob Williams, CEO for War Child UK says, "As violence in South Sudan spirals out of control, children have been forced to run for their lives."

"They will have witnessed violence of unimaginable proportions, with some forced to watch the murder of friends and family members. They are in urgent need of psychosocial support and protection.

"International governments must prioritise the needs of these children, who desperately need our help."

War Child has been providing psychosocial, education and livelihoods support to more than 2,000 children in Adjumani and Kiryandongo refugee settlements through partner organisation TPO Uganda.

Patrick Onyango Mangan, Country Director for TPO Uganda says, “The pressure put on existing services and resources within Uganda to respond to this refugee crisis is immense.”

“Now, more than ever, is the urgent need for international partners to join in the quest for diplomatic solutions for peace and stability within South Sudan”.

-ENDS-

ABOUT WAR CHILD UK

War Child is striving for a world where children’s lives are no longer torn apart by war.

We protect, educate and stand up for the rights of children caught up in conflict. We aim to reach children as early as possible when conflict breaks out, and stay to support them through their recovery - helping to keep them safe, give them an education, and equip them with skills for the future.

We understand children’s needs, respect their rights, and put them at the centre of the solution - from supporting Syrian children to access education, to reintegrating child soldiers in the Central African Republic and promoting justice for young people in detention in Afghanistan. Together with our partners we work in 15 countries across Africa, Asia and the Middle East, and Latin America.

We also work with children and young people to change systems and practices that affect them – campaigning on the root causes of conflict and demanding that children are at the centre of humanitarian response.

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