

[Nigeria: Welcoming release of 82 Chibok girls, UN urges support for their rehabilitation](#)

8 May 2017 – Welcoming Saturday’s release of 82 of the schoolgirls abducted from the Nigerian town of Chibok by the Boko Haram insurgent group three years ago, the United Nations has called for continued global support for the country’s efforts to release, rehabilitate and reintegrate all Boko Haram victims.

“We appeal to all Nigerians, including the families and local communities of the liberated girls, to fully embrace them and provide all necessary support to ensure their reintegration into society,” [said](#) a statement issued today by Stéphane Dujarric, Spokesman for the UN Secretary-General.

“We remain deeply concerned about the safety and wellbeing of the schoolgirls and other victims still in captivity,” added the statement.

The newly-released girls will be put on a similar rehabilitation programme set up for the 21 Chibok girls who were released in October 2016, [according to](#) the UN Population Fund ([UNFPA](#)).

The programme is tailored to meet each girl’s specific needs of counselling, to help overcome the trauma endured after being held under captivity for more than three years.

It includes, among others, access to quality education to bridge the learning gap created during the abduction, access to reproductive health care for their sexual well-being and rehabilitation support, and a skills-acquisition programme to ease their re-integration into their society.

UNFPA has deployed an emergency team of psychosocial counsellors and health professionals to assist with the profiling of the girls, so their critical needs can be met.

[More than one million children have fled escalating violence in South Sudan – UN](#)

8 May 2017 – The escalating conflict in South Sudan had driven more than one million children out of the country, the United Nations announced today,

warning that the future of a generation is 'on the brink.'

"The horrifying fact that nearly one in five children in South Sudan has been forced to flee their home illustrates how devastating this conflict has been for the country's most vulnerable," [said](#) Leila Pakkala, the Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa of the UN Children's Fund ([UNICEF](#)), in a press release issued jointly with the UN refugee agency.

"Add this to the more than one million children who are also displaced within South Sudan, and the future of a generation is truly on the brink," she warned.

Children make 62 per cent of more than 1.8 million refugees from South Sudan, according to the latest UN figures. More than 75,000 refugee children in Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo have crossed South Sudan's borders either unaccompanied or separated from their families.

"No refugee crisis today worries me more than South Sudan," said Valentin Tapsoba, the Africa Bureau Director of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees ([UNHCR](#)).

"That refugee children are becoming the defining face of this emergency is incredibly troubling," he added.

RELATED: [UN peacekeepers deployed to enable aid delivery to Upper Nile's Aburoc area](#)

South Sudan has the highest proportion of out-of-school children in the world at about 75 per cent.

The trauma, physical upheaval, fear and stress experienced by so many children account for just part of toll the crisis is exacting. Children remain at risk of recruitment by armed forces and groups and, with traditional social structures damaged, they are also increasingly vulnerable to violence, sexual abuse and exploitation.

UNICEF's appeal of \$181 million for South Sudan and South Sudanese refugees in the region for the rest of the year is currently only 52 per cent funded while UNHCR's funding appeal of \$ 781.8 million for the country is only 11 per cent funded.

VIDEO: More than one million children have now fled South Sudan where escalating conflict is ravaging the country, UNICEF and UNHCR, the UN refugee agency, announced today.

Unimpeded access, humanitarian funds urgently needed in Yemen – senior UN relief official

8 May 2017 – Voicing concern over lack of humanitarian access particularly for medicine and medical supplies in war-torn Yemen, a senior United Nations relief official has called on all parties to the conflict to ensure urgent and unrestricted access to people in need across the country.

“Giving the UN and humanitarian partners safe and unimpeded access to those in need would be a strong demonstration by the warring parties of their concern for the Yemeni people,” said Jamie McGoldrick, the Humanitarian Coordinator in Yemen, in a [statement](#) yesterday.

“It is imperative that humanitarians reach people in need without obstacle, wherever they may be,” he underscored.

According to the statement, administrative delays at ports, checkpoints, and interference with aid delivery have hampered efforts to transport medicine and medical supplies to people in need in a timely manner.

The access is all the more important now given the current threat of famine and outbreaks of cholera in locations throughout the country. Some 17 million Yemenis are battling food insecurity, making it the largest [hunger crisis](#) in the world.

“Recent information suggests that medicine supplies are being delayed from reaching Taizz City, where the need of the people is urgent. I call on the authorities in Sana’a [the capital of Yemen] to allow trucks carrying medicines into Taizz City without delay,” said the Humanitarian Coordinator.

Also in the statement, Mr. McGoldrick underscored the urgent need for additional resources and called on the international community to fund the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan.

In February this year, UN together with humanitarian partners [launched an international appeal](#) for \$2.1 billion to provide life-saving assistance to millions in Yemen in 2017, the largest-ever humanitarian response plan for the country.

Last month, [commitments amounting to little under \\$1.1 billion were made](#) at a UN-led humanitarian pledging conference in Geneva.

“All commitments made during the pledging conference need to materialize at once,” stressed Mr. McGoldrick in the statement, adding: “While Yemen awaits for peace, humanitarian action is saving lives every day across the entire country.”

[Nigeria: UNICEF welcomes release of 80 Chibok schoolgirls abducted by Boko Haram](#)



After more than two years of being held hostage by Boko Haram, in northeast Nigeria, one of the Chibok girls recounts the horrific conditions they experienced. Photo: UNICEF Nigeria

7 May 2017 – The United Nations Children’s Fund ([UNICEF](#)) today welcomed yesterday’s release of more than 80 of the Chibok schoolgirls abducted by Boko Haram insurgents over three years ago.

It is heartening to know that the girls will be returning to their families who have been waiting for this day

It is heartening to know that the girls will be returning to their families who have been waiting for this day. They will face a long and difficult process to rebuild their lives after the indescribable horror and trauma they have suffered at the hands of Boko Haram, [said](#) UNICEF Nigeria Acting Representative Pernille Ironside in a statement.

She said UNICEF is on standby to support the Nigerian authorities to provide the comprehensive psychosocial support, help reunite the girls with their families and make sure they can continue their education in a safe environment.

RELATED: [UN report details ‘grave violations’ against children by Boko Haram](#)

UNICEF calls on Boko Haram to end all grave violations against children, especially the abduction of children and the sexual abuse and forced marriage of girls, she said.

[South Sudan: UN deploys peacekeepers to enable aid delivery to Upper Nile’s](#)

Aburoc area

7 May 2017 – The United Nations Mission in South Sudan ([UNMISS](#)) has urgently deployed peacekeeping troops to Aburoc in the Upper Nile region to help enable the delivery of much needed humanitarian assistance to the 50,000 people displaced from home, the Mission said today.

The aim is to provide humanitarian groups with the confidence they need to resume the provision of urgent assistance to tens of thousands of people in Aburoc who are fleeing the ongoing violence, [said](#) the Head of UNMISS, David Shearer, in a press release.

Currently up to 50,000 people are sheltering in and around the town of Aburoc on the west bank of the River Nile after a series of clashes between Government and opposition forces. The most urgent need is drinking water as there is a risk of an outbreak of diarrhoea or even cholera which has the potential to kill thousands of vulnerable people, he said.

Mr. Shearer said the deployment is short-term and the peacekeepers' immediate task is to secure the base from where humanitarians are providing water and other assistance. The road between Kodok and Aburoc will be checked for old landmines by the UN Mine Action Service and cleared as necessary. Protection may also be provided for water trucks using the road if that is required to enable people to move freely.

Despite the August 2015 peace agreement, South Sudan slipped back into conflict due to renewed clashes between rival forces – the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) loyal to President Salva Kiir and the SPLA in Opposition backing former First Vice-President Riek Machar.

I also note that the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) has acknowledged UNMISS' intention to help facilitate the provision of humanitarian assistance to the people of the Upper Nile, [Mr. Shearer said](#).