

## Refugee children from South Sudan – Right To Play's commitment in Uganda and Ethiopia

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Since 2013, ongoing conflicts in South Sudan have caused two million people to flee the youngest country in the world – the United Nations has called the South Sudan situation the worst humanitarian crisis since World War II. 928,000 refugees (85% of whom are women and children) have since been registered in the northern regions of Uganda bordering South Sudan. Another 320,000 South Sudanese refugees are currently living in the neighbouring country of Ethiopia. Right To Play is diligently observing the situation and currently supports 35,000 displaced and local children and youth in Uganda and Ethiopia.



The optimism and cheer surrounding South Sudan's independence on July 9, 2011 have fallen silent. Since December 2013, the nation populated with roughly 12 million inhabitants has been engaged in civil war. In addition, famine has officially struck South Sudan since February this year.

### **In search of safety and peace**

Nearly two million people have fled South Sudan since 2013, more than half of whom fleeing to the neighbouring southern country of Uganda. Almost one third of them have crossed the border to Uganda within the last year due to new clashes between the government and opposition in the capital city of Juba. Those 627,000 refugees fled South Sudan in search of protection from indiscriminate murder, rape, torture and looting – 227,000 of them arrived between January and April 2017.

### **Play and sport for South Sudanese children and children from host communities**

Right To Play has apprehensively followed the development in South Sudan. In cooperation with the United Nations, Right To Play currently reaches over 35,000 displaced children and youth and children from host communities in Uganda and Ethiopia through play and sports.

### **Social cohesion and education as ultimate objectives**

Right To Play offers children who are traumatized and victimized by armed conflicts and displacement a safe framework in which to grow up – both in and out of school. Teachers and coaches trained by Right To Play conduct play- and sports-based activities with children, create a positive learning environment and give security to the young generation. The South Sudanese and local girls and boys gain awareness of the problematic situation, learn tolerance and respect, strengthen their self-confidence, and are taught how to solve conflicts peacefully. Through these efforts, Right To Play is contributing to multi-cultural integration, social cohesion and peacebuilding. At the same time, Right To Play supports the rehabilitation of school infrastructure in order to ensure consistent school attendance for thousands of children. Due to the fragile situation in Uganda, Right To Play is additionally providing nutritious meals and water, sanitation and hygiene facilities to the large number of arriving refugees.

### **Education in a humanitarian context**

The United Nations has called the South Sudan situation the worst humanitarian crisis since World War II. Thus far in 2017, there are over twice as many refugees fleeing South Sudan as there are refugees fleeing Syria. In contrast to humanitarian emergency agencies, Right To Play engages with multi-annual projects for sustainable development. Right To Play's continual presence in Uganda over the last 16 years allowed us to immediately react to the current refugee situation in Uganda. Our commitment to education and social cohesion is the foundation needed to avoid losing a generation of children and youth affected by the current refugee crisis.

