

Highlights

- Fresh fighting in border areas heightens concern for refugees in Yida, South Sudan
- Aerial bombings reported in the Bau area of Sudan's Blue Nile state. Refugee influx expected to increase into South Sudan's Upper Nile state.
- Water shortage at Ethiopia's Adamazine transit centre increases urgency to open new camp at Bambasi
- International humanitarian workers gain limited access to South Kordofan capital Kadugli

Registered Refugees from Sudan From mid-2011 to 10 March 2012

Country of Asylum	Total
Ethiopia	30,454
South Sudan	102,900
TOTAL	133,354

UNHCR Supplementary Financial Requirements for the Emergency Response for Sudanese Refugees (in million USD)

Country Operation	Regular Budget (2012)	Supplementary Appeal (2012)
Ethiopia	185	33.7
South Sudan	84.1	111.2
Total	269.1	144.9

Background

In the weeks leading up to and following South Sudan's secession from Sudan in July 2011, clashes broke out between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North in the protocol areas of Abyei, South Kordofan and Blue Nile. Since then, tens of thousands of Sudanese civilians have fled into Ethiopia's Benishangul-Gumuz regional state and to South Sudan's Unity and Upper Nile states.

To meet their needs, UNHCR is appealing for \$144.9 million in addition to the \$269.1 million in regular budget for 2012 in Ethiopia and South Sudan. The funds will pay for the urgent delivery of relief supplies, the relocation of refugees from the border to the camps, the building of camps and access roads, and the overall provision of assistance and protection to a projected total of 185,000 Sudanese refugees.

Latest Developments – Sudan

- **Security** – In late February, continuing clashes were reported between SAF and SPLM-N in Blue Nile and South Kordofan. This includes reports of aerial bombing in the Bau area of Blue Nile, and fighting in the disputed border area of Jau between South Kordofan and South Sudan's Unity state.
- **Humanitarian access** – Six international staff have returned to Kadugli, capital of South Kordofan, on time-limited permits. More international staff are expected to follow.
- **Humanitarian assessment** – The Sudanese government's Humanitarian Aid Commission released results of an assessment done in South Kordofan from late January to early February. It estimated that more than 146,000 people have been affected by the conflict since June 2011, and made recommendations for food and water assistance, quick impact projects and healthcare enhancements.

Latest Developments – Ethiopia

- **Camps** – Construction is underway on Bambasi, a third camp in Benishangul-Gumuz regional state in the west. Physical planning has been completed, two zones have been demarcated and areas have been designated for services. The camp should be able to house 20,000 refugees when completed this month.
- **Water** – Seasonal rivers are drying up, affecting the water supply to Adamazine transit centre and increasing the urgency to open Bambasi camp to receive new arrivals from Sudan.
- **Health** – Sherkole camp has reported an increase in the number of cases of watery diarrhoea and upper respiratory tract infection, the latter due to dust from road construction.
- **Education** – A primary school has been opened at Tongo 2 camp, providing emergency education to 450 refugee children.
- **Protection** – The government of South Sudan has approved the voluntary return of South Sudanese refugees who had fled Blue Nile state. On February 29, UNHCR Sherkole met with refugee leaders to discuss the voluntary repatriation, pending approval of all parties and favorable conditions for safe return. UNHCR also informed refugees who have registered to return to Sudan that it is still waiting for a decision from the Sudanese government regarding their return.
- **Protection** – Ten families in Tongo camp and Adamazine transit centre were transferred to Sherkole camp for family reunification on 27 February.

Latest Developments – South Sudan

- **Unity State** – The **security** situation in the border area between Unity state and South Kordofan state remains volatile. Renewed fighting as well as bombing on 26 February in the Lake Jau area and on 29 February along the western border of Pariang County heightened concerns for refugees' security. Although there was no direct humanitarian impact, refugees reportedly fled into the bush in fear. Small numbers are relocating to formal settlements in Nyeel and Pariang.

UNHCR and refugees are in discussion on the urgent need for **relocation** to safer areas. Refugee leaders have raised legitimate concerns regarding their desire to remain close to their homeland, the Nuba Mountains. Moreover, they are not accustomed to living in flat lands and prefer the hilly Yida landscape. Notwithstanding these concerns, the security of refugees is paramount as reiterated by UN refugee chief, António Guterres and the authorities in Unity state. The dialogue is continuing. Meanwhile, UNHCR and partners continue to provide basic life-sustaining assistance to refugees in Yida, including protection, food, water, sanitation, hygiene, nutrition and health services.

Those refugees who have relocated to Nyeel and Pariang have access to expanded services in primary and secondary **education** along with support to engage in agriculture. More than 1,000 students are attending secondary school in Pariang accompanied by teachers and caretakers from the refugee community. Some 450 students are attending primary school in Nyeel. Children in Yida currently receive education in makeshift structures established by the refugee community. Only emergency education can be provided due to the unsafe nature of the site. UNHCR and UNICEF are discussing approaches with the refugee community.

- **Upper Nile State** – The number of refugees from Blue Nile state passed the 80,000 mark in February. In parts of Maban county where they are all located, refugees outnumber local populations by 6 to 1. UNHCR teams continue to comb border areas to find new arrivals with the support of local authorities for **relocation** to formal settlements in Doro and Jammam. Refugees are often exhausted from long walks and lack of food and water. They cite nearby bombardments as well as the fear of bombing as the causes of their flight. Contingency plans are being developed for a large influx following unconfirmed reports by refugees that entire communities in Blue Nile state are on the move.

The airlift of [non-food items](#) which started on 20 December 2011 was completed in February. It was prompted by a surge in refugee numbers in Upper Nile state, which swelled from about 25,000 in mid-December to over 80,000 by the end of February. In total 10,000 family tents were airlifted from Dubai, and large volumes of domestic items were flown from Nairobi: 20,000 jerry cans, 40,000 mosquito nets, 50,000 blankets, 20,000 plastic sheets, 50 tarpaulins rolls. Rub halls – mobile warehouses were flown in for storage of relief items. Stocks are being replenished through ground transportation (trucks and barges). Contingency reserves will be stockpiled for the rainy season when roads will become impassable.

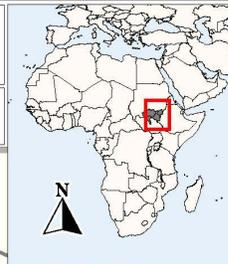
In Doro and Jammam, vulnerable groups are prioritized for medical treatment and allocation of shelter. All refugees receive food and non-food items. Both sites report high levels of watery diarrhoea and health agencies have pre-positioned treatment equipment and supplies as a precautionary measure. Water supply gaps at Doro have been overcome somewhat with the installation of a water purification system at a nearby river. In Jammam, the situation remains critical; water is still being trucked as hydrological assessments are carried out and WASH actors redirect drilling capacities to the site.

Situational Overview of Sudanese Refugees in Ethiopia and South Sudan

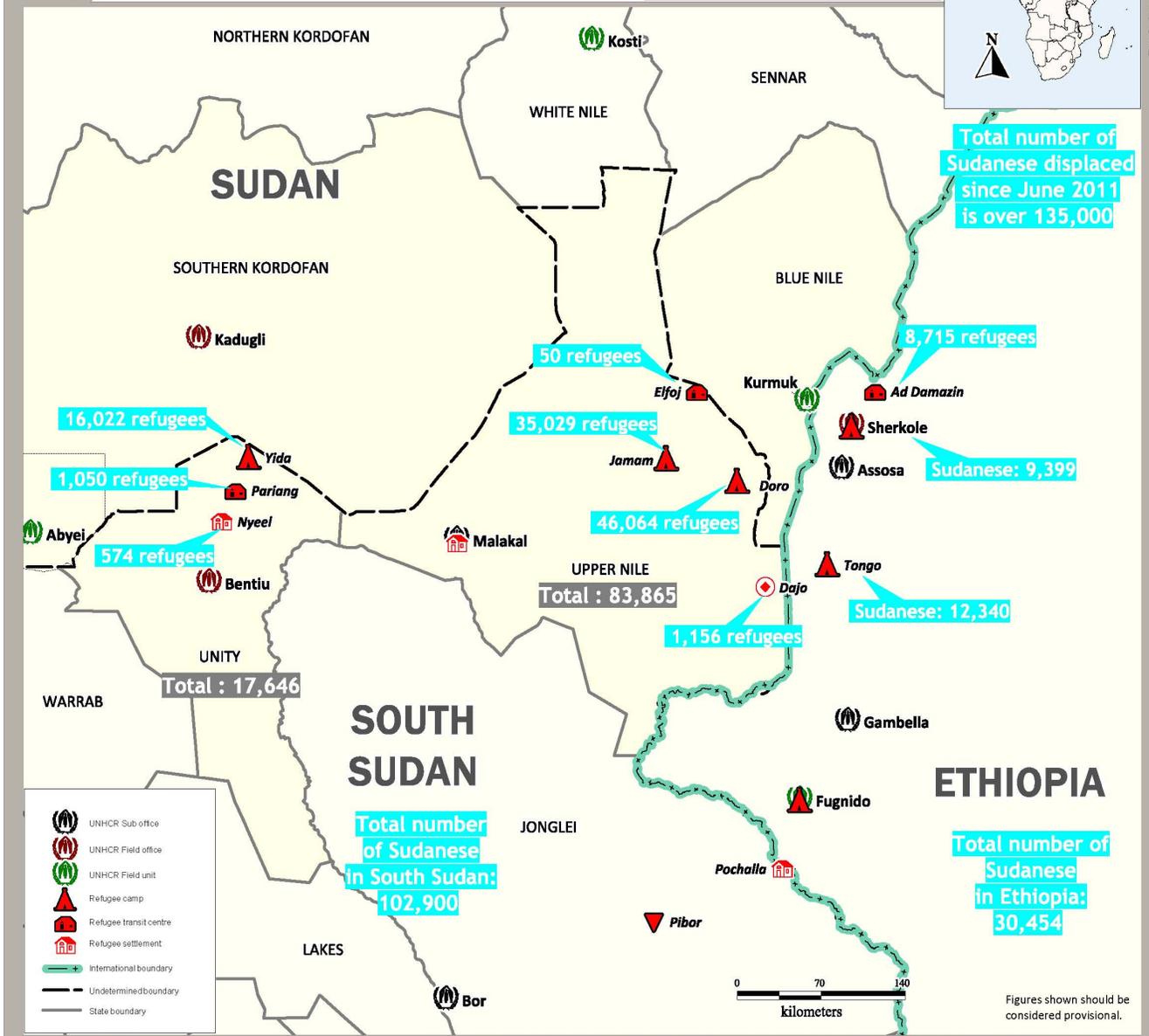
As of 10 March 2012

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Check the latest statistics and operational updates here:

Ethiopia http://data.unhcr.org/Sudanese_Refugees_in_Ethiopia/

South Sudan <http://data.unhcr.org/SouthSudan/>