

Update on Emergency Response Operations in South Sudan

Week Ending 16 December 2012

Highlights

- **Border monitoring in El Fuj**
- **Biometric exercise concludes in Yida; baseline population data confirmed**
- **UNHCR awaits approval for new sites for refugees in Unity State**
- **Influx of Congolese new arrivals in South Sudan**

Upper Nile State

Border monitoring in El Fuj

During the reporting period, UNHCR conducted a border-monitoring mission to El Fuj and confirmed that no new refugees have arrived in the past few days. UNHCR was concerned as it had heard rumors of security issues related to a reported aircraft flyover in El Fuj during the weekend and humanitarian actors had been denied access into El Fuj as aerial attacks had been reported in the close vicinity. Tractors and trucks remain on standby in K43 transit site and will be deployed to El Fuj at first sign of new arrivals.

On 12 December UNHCR moved all remaining refugees from El Fuj to K43 and onwards to Jamam camp the following day. The group consisted of 84 households comprising of 271 individuals. Eight individuals were admitted to the MSF clinic in Jamam.

Unity State

Biometric exercise concludes in Yida; baseline population data confirmed

In less than 23 days, UNHCR completed the biometric verification exercise of the entire camp population on Sunday, 16 December. The total population of the camp has been confirmed at 54,992, including more than 8,000 new arrivals that have arrived since 22 November. While detailed analysis will be available shortly, initial data indicates that approximately 8,000 individuals have been inactivated and more than 13,000 refugees did now show up during the exercise.

These updated figures will help UNHCR and partners to plan more efficiently for 2013 as well as to ensure organizations have enough food and relief items as refugees continue to arrive in Yida.



A young refugee girl gets her fingerprints taken for the biometric registration exercise in Yida settlement. UNHCR/K.Mahoney

UNHCR will provide a comprehensive report on the findings and implications of the verification process in the coming days.

UNHCR awaits approval for new sites for refugees in Unity State

Over the past few weeks, UNHCR and its government counterparts have been actively assessing sites for refugees in Unity State. To date, UNHCR staff have visited a total of 15 sites three of which were deemed suitable.

The new sites are located in various areas of Unity State but all are at least 90 kilometers from the volatile border crossing point of Jau.

The new sites will initially serve as alternative locations for new arrivals as well as for refugees in Yida who wish to move. In addition to core basic services such as shelter, water, food and health care, UNHCR and partners will be ensuring access to primary and secondary education and livelihood activities.

UNHCR has been searching for sites that are both far from militarized areas and have suitable soil that does not flood during the six-month long rainy season.

So far the Pariang Commissioner and the Governor of Unity State have approved the locations while a green light is pending from central government. UNHCR has also asked that sites be assessed from a security perspective to ensure that the State can guarantee the protection of refugees in this area. UNHCR is hoping for a response by 20 December to begin preparing the sites for refugees to move by mid-February.

Central Equatoria State

Influx of Congolese new arrivals in South Sudan

Since 13 December some 4,000 individuals from the Democratic Republic of Congo have sought safety in South Sudan. New arrivals have reported that military operations seeking to contain unidentified armed rebels groups active in the area have resulted in arrests and abuses which have caused them to flee.

The Government of South Sudan has been registering new arrivals from Agorobo village, located one mile from the South Sudanese border in Aru County. People were arriving in two locations, Pakujo and Rodoba, and were being sheltered in community buildings with reinforced security due to the two sites proximity to the border. On Sunday, UNHCR consolidated all refugees into one site in Rodoba with separate housing for men and women.

The vast majority of the new arrivals are women with small infants who have reported a large number of separated or unaccompanied children in the groups. UNHCR's priority is to identify these unaccompanied children as quickly as possible to ensure those most at risk, particularly adolescent boys, are protected.

The individuals have arrived with little luggage and no livestock, indicating an abrupt departure. As they have little to sustain themselves, UNHCR has mobilized all available food and relief item stock, including jerry cans, sleeping mats, mosquito nets and soap, to be distributed as soon as possible. A distribution of blankets and other items has taken place already and more is happening as we speak. Hot meals are being prepared by volunteer refugee cooks who are also helping to identify the most vulnerable to serve them with priority. Additional supplies have been urgently requested and UNHCR will begin trucking in safe drinking water if required.

As a matter of priority the Government of South Sudan and UNHCR agree the new arrivals must be moved to a more secure area away from the border within the next three to four days. Safe site locations are still being discussed and assessed, as concerns have been raised about the presence of landmines in the vicinity. UNHCR will support the transportation of individuals as soon as a site is identified.

Statistics

Upper Nile State: 112,091		Unity State: 56,582	
Yusuf Batil	37,199	Nyeel	827
Doro	44,742	Pariang	763
Jamam	15,439	Yida	54,992
Gendrassa	14,711		

Partners:

ACROSS; ACTED; CARE; Danish Refugee Council (DRC); Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); GOAL; GIZ; IBIS; International Rescue Committee (IRC); International Organization for Migration (IOM); INTERSOS; MEDAIR; MSF-Belgium; MSF-France; Non-Violence Peace Force (NVPF); Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC); OXFAM; Relief International; Samaritan's Purse; Save the Children Fund; UNICEF; World Food Programme (WFP); World Health Organization (WHO); World Relief; World Vision International.