



# UNHCR South Sudan

## *Situation Report*

### Developments

#### • Upper Nile state

In Malakal heavy fighting was reported between pro- and anti-government forces from 7am with small arms fire and heavy bombardment close to the UNMISS Log base. There was shooting and loud explosions, amid unconfirmed reports of defections. There were also reports of fighters from both sides laying down arms and seeking refuge in UNMISS PoC areas, as well as of injured soldiers seeking treatment at the UNMISS hospital.

Stray bullets were fired all over the UNMISS Base. Three bullets were lodged in the UNHCR accommodation containers and a fourth in a UNHCR vehicle which was parked next to the office. An RPG landed in the compound but did not explode. All UN staff were safe and accounted for, including UNHCR staff numbering five (one international) and their families.

UNMISS level I and II hospitals were filled to capacity with many patients lying outside waiting to be attended. There were reports of two deaths and over 100 IDPs being injured mostly from bullet wounds. The hospitals appealed to agencies which could have supplies to assist.

The operational capabilities of the warring parties in Malakal are unknown, including for sustained heavy fire. It is feared the displacement into Maban County, which has remained an area of relative calm in Upper Nile State, could increase if people flee Malakal.

In Maban County the situation remained calm, although rumours continued to feed tensions. The humanitarian community at large is not under direct threat although the increasing tensions could impact threat levels. Critical personnel of partner organizations are returning progressively to resume work that is limited to life-saving activities.

### Refugee operations

The UNHCR Representative will meet heads of NGO partners in refugee operations on 15 January,

to discuss *inter alia* return to duty, access and logistical support for refugee areas, security arrangements and issues around neutrality and impartiality.

#### Central Equatoria State

UNHCR is continuing efforts to address individual cases arising in the context of the ongoing hostilities, and is in discussion with the South Sudan Commission for Refugees Affairs with respect to a declaration of temporary protection for Eritreans.

Near Gorom, fighting among rival SPLA soldiers has provoked movement of civilians from surrounding villages to Gorom refugee settlement where they have camped in the school compound for the past two days. Refugee leaders are assisting UNHCR partner, ACROSS, to ascertain the numbers of affected individuals and families. Meanwhile, primary school exams are ongoing in the refugee settlement.

#### • Unity State

There are now 21 UNHCR staff in Yida. Other agencies returned too, including WFP, AAHI and staff of the Commission for Refugee Affairs.

A meeting was held with members of the Refugee Council to discuss food distribution to persons whose cards had been cancelled, the fate of new arrivals who have been registered and await relocation to Ajuong Thok, and unregistered new arrivals. The refugee leaders expressed concern about the presence of armed/uniformed men in Yida.

UNHCR and partners are due to resume relocation of refugees from Yida to Ajuong Thok before the end of the week.

A truck carrying assorted items including building materials that was dispatched from Juba on 9 December arrived in Yida on 14 January with all of the cargo intact.

#### • Upper Nile State

UNHCR and partners met with refugee leaders in Kaya to discuss on-going recruitment in refugee

camps as well as capacity mapping by the community on Health, WASH (hygiene promoters and water technicians), Genset technicians, Community Watch groups etc. Similar meetings will be held in Doro and Yusuf Batil camps.

## Internal displacement

*UNHCR is participating in the IDP response via the inter-agency collaborative approach under the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator.*

The current OCHA estimate of overall displacement is 413,634 including 65,493 in UNMISS PoC Areas.

- **Non-food items**

On 16 January, UNHCR will release plastic sheets and kitchen sets (2,500 each) as well as blankets and mosquito nets (5,000 each) to IOM to support the IDP response in Bentiu, which will benefit 2,500 households.

UNHCR has suspended the airlift of NFIs from Nairobi to Juba. The remaining items will be transported by road, which is considerably less costly than air transport. Received items are stored in the UNHCR warehouse in Juba for release, upon request, to the NFI/Cluster .

- **Protection Cluster**

A shooting incident at UNMISS PoC Area (Tompson) appears to have begun outside the Western Gate. UNMISS quick reaction forces were deployed, as well as SPLA/SSNPS who fired shots in the air. Reports indicate that “IDPs” also fired

### Emergency non-food items

	NON-FOOD ITEMS	RECEIVED		DISTRIBUTED	
		This day	Total	This day	Total
AIRLIFTED FROM NAIROBI	Plastic rolls	-	200	-	-
	Plastic sheets	-	10,076	-	-
	Blankets	-	12,480	-	320
	Kitchen sets	-	3,898	-	-
	Family tents	-	362	-	-
	Rubbhalls	2	6	-	-
REFUGEE STOCKS	Mosquito nets			-	320

weapons and it appears that 2 or 3 persons inside the PoC Area were injured in crossfire. A weapons search was undertaken within the UNMISS PoC Area without serious incident. It uncovered numerous uniforms, a few small arms and some ammunition.

Relocation of “new arrivals” from the UNMISS Tompong PoC Area to the UNMISS UN House PoC continued, monitored by Protection Cluster and CCCM actors.

- **Eastern Equatoria State**

Agencies are reporting the presence of IDPs in Nimule (mostly from Bor and Bentiu) who consider the location as a “safe haven”. Estimates indicate there are between 13,000 and 20,000 displaced persons. The first wave were taken in by local communities. The second occupied churches and schools. Those arriving (1-2,000 a day) are living in the open under trees on the outskirts of Nimule. The local hospital is overstretched with many cases of trauma from road accidents including referrals from Juba and Bor.

- **Upper Nile State**

#### Malakal

UNHCR continued Protection monitoring when the fighting subsided. Most concerns are about physical safety including in the PoC Area. The scheduled identification of persons with special needs could not take place owing to the chaotic situation. UNHCR requested for a humanitarian convoy to its warehouse to collect NFIs and position them in the UNMISS Log Base ready for distribution. UNMISS will revert on when it is reasonably safe to do so. The convoy will be joined by WFP and UNICEF.

#### Maban County

RRC organized a debriefing session on the IDP situation in Maban County, to discuss key assessment findings and clarify government position. Of direct concern to UNHCR, in both locations IDPs have no cover and seek shelter under trees, sleeping in the open on the bare ground. They have few water containers.

Protection concerns include women who are not accompanied by husbands or relatives, as well as risks faced by women sleeping out in the open. Urgent multi-sectoral responses, including distribution of basic relief items by IOM and UNHCR, and a 15-day food ration by WFP will take place on 15 January.

**For more information, please contact:**

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