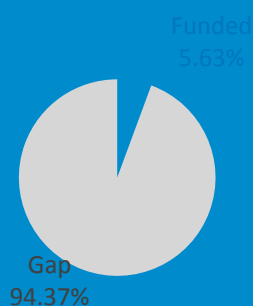


**414,052,136 USD**

Requested for the operation



## SOUTH SUDAN

### UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE 11/2015

20-26 March 2015


## HIGHLIGHTS

- **Government's term extended:** The National Legislature Assembly has extended the Government's mandate until July 2018.
- **Refugee influx:** In the three months up to 23 March 9,194 refugees were relocated from Yida to Ajuong Thok, 85 per cent of them new arrivals.
- **Ajuong Thok construction:** 95 per cent of the 19.4 km of internal roads have been cleared; extension activity is ongoing.
- **Donors to visit Ajuong Thok:** The Juba office is organizing a donor mission (day trip) to Ajuong Thok refugee site on Tuesday 31 March. The Government's Commissioner for Refugee Affairs, the Canadian and German Ambassadors, the US Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration Coordinator, the US Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance Representative and the ECHO Correspondent will be among those attending. The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) has agreed to a UNHCR request for Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF) funding to ensure the expansion of Ajuong Thok before the rainy season in May.
- **Action against Hepatitis E:** Doro refugee camp in Upper Nile State saw three cases of the disease; remedial WASH actions have been taken.
- **Bentiu Protection of Civilians (POC) site:** Over 21,000 people arrived between 19 January and 19 March 2015.

#### Current population of concern

IDPs in UNMISS Protection of Civilians sites 112,590

IDPs since 15 December  1,476,534

Refugees in South Sudan  255,949

## OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

- Bentiu, Unity State, has seen further sporadic shelling by Opposition forces. On 17 March UN and humanitarian staff in Bentiu POC were forced into bunkers at least twice during the day. A mortar shell which landed in the POC site injured a woman; no injuries among UN or humanitarian staff were reported.
- Increased mobilization and recruitment have been reported in refugee camps in Upper Nile State.
- Looming hyperinflation with the rapidly rising black market rate for the Sudanese pound against the US dollar could exacerbate the already volatile security situation.
- Heavy inter-communal violence in six cattle camps in Rumbek Centre and Rumbek East counties, Lakes State, resulted in about 100 deaths, according to OCHA; 36 others were wounded, it said.

## REFUGEE RESPONSE



### Protection

#### Achievements and Impact

##### Unity State

- 404 refugees arrived in Yida settlement during the reporting period, a 44 per cent decrease on the previous week. 368 refugees were relocated from Yida to AT. Eighty per cent of the new arrivals are women and children.
- 59 unaccompanied/separated children (36 boys, 23 girls) among the new arrivals were identified and registered in Yida and then relocated to AT. Best Interest Assessments were conducted for 9 children (6 girls and 3 boys) in AT.
- During medical consultations held at Yida health facilities by UNHCR partner IRC; out of 440 women 38 were screened to have experienced some form of SGBV over the last one month. 17 of the 38 women were referred for psychosocial support.

##### Upper Nile State

- Issues with regards to Doro decongestion site (traditional leaders stopped the expansion work temporarily on 9 March) have been addressed with host communities from Tiwji village, and work on extending the new site has resumed. 36 refugee households from Ragarik Community (the first batch) are scheduled to start moving into the site on 25 March.

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

##### Upper Nile State

- Increased mobilization and recruitment have been reported within the camps. Recruitment is targeting ex-soldiers and movements of people towards Blue Nile. UNHCR is working to prevent child recruitment through child protection mechanisms and education.



### Health

#### Achievements and Impact

##### Unity State

- Acute Watery Diarrhoea in Ajuong Thok refugee camp is a major concern; 115 cases were recorded in the reporting week, a decrease from 210 in the previous week. Rapid tests for cholera are being carried out and so far all the tests are negative. Efforts to contain the diarrhoea epidemic are ongoing through hygiene education.

### Upper Nile State

- Three Hepatitis-E cases have been reported in Doro Camp, (two of them newly arrived refugees from Blue Nile State; the third case was a close contact of one of the two cases). All three cases were admitted and managed properly at the isolation centre in Doro clinic. A joint assessment was conducted by UNHCR, MSF-OCB and IOM on 20 March 2015 to identify mitigation and immediate response measures to contain the situation. Water quality tests were conducted to assess contamination risks, and the general WASH situation in the affected area was reviewed.
- The following actions are being taken: (i) adjustment of the water supply schedule with water supply available for an additional hour, (ii) close monitoring of chlorine dosage, (iii) distribution of additional soap for personal hygiene to ensure maximum prevention of the outbreak, (iv) hygiene and sanitation key messages disseminated with focus on Hepatitis E outbreak prevention, (v) mass jerry-can cleaning campaign, (vi) strengthened medical screening and management of new arrivals from Blue Nile State.



## Food Security and Nutrition

### Achievements and Impact

#### Upper Nile State

- Malnutrition prevalence among new arrivals in Ajuong Thok (AT) over the reporting week is 10.4 per cent. The UNHCR emergency threshold for malnutrition prevalence is 10 per cent, so the situation in AT is being closely monitored.



## Water and Sanitation

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

#### Unity State

- Field observations reveal a high rate of open defecation, and poor water and food handling practices in AT. UNHCR, through the WASH partner, has mobilized Community Health Promoters - an outreach team - to raise awareness in the community of good hygiene practices; more slabs are expected from Juba to improve latrine coverage.



## Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

#### Unity State

- UNHCR and its partner, the Danish Refugee Council, organized a graduation ceremony for 30 tailoring students on 20 March in AT. The UNHCR-funded six-month tailoring project was designed to empower refugee women through skill building – the first of its kind in the camp. The plan is to give tailoring machines to students after graduation.



## Logistics/Supply

### Achievements and Impact

#### Upper Nile State

- 25 trucks have arrived in Maban from Juba since 4 March - 20 carrying timber purlins for the Maban shelter programme and 5 carrying non-food items.

#### Unity State

- The fuel stock balance in Yida is 73,577 litres and in Jamjang 106,619. Total stock balance for the two locations is 180,196 litres - enough to cover a four-month period based on current consumption rates.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

#### Unity State

- Three UNHCR trucks which left Juba on the 28 February are stuck in Bentiu awaiting a MONBATT escort to Pariang.

## IDP RESPONSE



### Protection

#### Achievements and Impact

- The Protection Cluster's monitoring and reporting specialist visited Bor town for a two-day mission to key partners with Common Humanitarian Fund funding, namely IOM (which offers psychological support to IDPs in the UNMISS POC site) and Community in Need Aid (which works to protect boys and girls affected by the conflict and other emergencies).

#### Upper Nile State

- UNHCR is following up with UNMISS on night patrols of UNMISS Dinka Warrior Security Guards inside the POC site in Melut. IDPs are suspicious and concerned about what they say are late and unusual patrols (11 pm till midnight). UNHCR alerted UNMISS about the growing tension between the Nuer ethnic IDPs in Melut POC site and the Warrior security guards on the UNMISS compound. UNHCR is following up with UNMISS on the job descriptions and tasks of Warrior security guards.
- Following completion of IDP biometric registration in Kodok and Lul (Fashoda County), UNHCR started IDP registration in Rom.

#### Unity State

- Bentiu POC site expansion: 71 out of 78 pieces of heavy machinery have arrived on site. Construction of the external berm and security ditch is 44 per cent complete.
- Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA) registered 19 separated children and 1 unaccompanied minor in Biu, Nyiel, Yida and Aliny *payams*. AHA registered 25 persons with special needs in Yida during the reporting period. Protection teams carried out awareness-raising activities on SGBV, HIV/AIDS and case management and reached 95 (60 women and 35 men) IDPs.

#### Lakes State

- Mingkaman: 904 beneficiaries (324 women, 138 men, 235 girls and 207 boys) were reached by UNHCR partners through GBV awareness-raising sessions between 13 and 19 March; during that week Save the Children distributed 77 kits to foster parents.
- Data provided by IOM on specific needs (vulnerabilities) indicates that 378 individuals were identified as having special protection needs, including 181 people with physical disabilities, and 20 with mental disabilities, 79 individuals with serious medical conditions, and 15 unaccompanied children.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Protection Cluster partners have expressed concern that the new Bentiu POC site (extension) will not be ready before the rainy season, again exposing IDPs to protection risks.

## Shelter and NFIs

### Unity State

- Bentiu POC: UNHCR has identified 22 most vulnerable cases and referred them for shelter assistance.
- UNHCR distributed NFIs for 320 households (HH) in Gumriak, Pariang County, through Samaritans' Purse. Africa Humanitarian Action, a UNHCR implementing partner, distributed fishing and vegetable kits to 73 HH in Aliny and 85 HH in Biu *payams*.

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some US\$ 24,228,398 as of 25 March 2015.

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with earmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

### Funding received (in USD)

