

414,052,136 USD

Requested for the operation



Gap
74.35%

SOUTH SUDAN

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE 18/2015

7-13 May 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Fighting south of Bentiu:** Up to 100,000 people are believed to have fled their homes as a result of fighting south of Bentiu, Unity State.
- **Villages set on fire:** UNHCR Protection Volunteers reported that some newly arriving IDPs in Bentiu Protection of Civilians (POC) site mentioned that their young boys were taken by force, or their daughters were abducted while on their way to the POC. Most IDPs say their villages were set on fire, their cattle raided and their belongings looted.
- **Child soldier numbers rising:** The number of child soldiers is increasing in Bentiu town and children are being seen in uniforms and with arms, openly assisting the SPLA. UNMISS and Protection Cluster focal points will raise matter with the authorities in the coming days.
- **Refugee relocations:** Relocation from a congested, flood prone area in Doro camp, Maban County, Upper Nile State, is progressing well, with 541 households relocated. Efforts to demarcate Soda and Chali areas, whose communities refused to relocate, are ongoing.
- **First Burundian refugees arrive:** 12 Burundian refugees have approached UNHCR's Juba office for assistance over the past two weeks.
- **Agreement with police:** UNHCR has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the police commissioner of Pariang County, Unity State, in a bid to improve law and order for refugees and the host community in Yida and Ajuong Thok.

Current population of concern

IDPs since 15 Dec
2013



1,555,059

Of them, 119,725 IDPs reside in UNMISS Protection of Civilians sites

Refugees in South
Sudan



261,925

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

- The South Sudan justice minister has approved the legal opinion prepared by the Ministry of Interior on the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol, and documents have now been forwarded to the Governance Cluster for deliberation and comments before submission to the Council of Ministers for approval.
- A controversial NGO bill requiring NGOs to hire set quotas of national staff, has been passed by parliament and awaits the president's signature.
- Over 300,000 South Sudanese civilians are without "life-saving aid" in Unity State, the United Nations said on 11 May, as it and aid agencies pulled out due to heavy fighting. Many civilians are reportedly trapped in the bush, having fled their homes around Bentiu.
- Bentiu POC: During a coordination meeting with UNMISS, it was noted that some IDPs were illegally using generators for sharpening spears and *pangas*, and that this posed a security risk. According to UNMISS regulations, generators may only be used for grinding food grains.
- Bentiu POC: Teachers are on strike demanding a pay rise.
- UNHCR's field office in Yei, Central Equatoria State, is improving its security perimeter fence as a contingency measure in the face of rising crime.
- Malakal POC, Upper Nile State: Tensions have led to a number of incidents, including the death of an elderly woman after her tent was torched.
- Fighting in Juba POC on 10 May left several dozen people injured, some with broken bones and severe head injuries.

REFUGEE RESPONSE



Protection

Achievements and Impact

Central Equatoria State

- 12 Burundian refugees arrived at the UNHCR Juba office over the last two weeks. The new arrivals cited lack of protection in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Uganda as the reason for their onward movement to South Sudan. This is the first instance of Burundians directly approaching the office in Juba; the Protection Unit is monitoring the situation closely.
- Lasu refugee settlement: 15 candidates have met the criteria to stand in the 14 May elections for various leadership positions.
- Lasu: UNHCR held a meeting with Nuba refugee community representatives who expressed satisfaction with the services they are receiving, though they raised minor unmet needs. UNHCR informed them of the importance of good relations with host communities and urged them to maintain peaceful coexistence with Congolese refugees.
- Gorom camp, Juba: 30 people, including police, the Community Watch team, primary school teachers and students, refugee and host community leaders and health-service providers, received two days of training on SGBV, with a focus on incident reporting.

Unity State

- 497 refugees arrived from South Kordofan in Sudan and were registered in Yida from 7-13 May; during the same period 536 refugees were relocated from Yida to Ajuong Thok refugee camp 70km away.
- 11,554 new refugee arrivals have been registered in Yida since 23 December 2014; 54 per cent are male and 46 percent female; 79 per cent of the new arrivals are women and children. 87 per cent of the relocated refugees are new arrivals.
- 12 separated children and 17 unaccompanied minors among new arrivals have been relocated to AT, which now has a population of 27,132.
- Yida: UNHCR partners provided material support to 13 extremely vulnerable women and girls, including 1 elderly woman, 7 women referred by a partner, and 4 survivors of SGBV.
- AT: 30 transitional shelters for vulnerable people were completed.

Upper Nile State

- Maban County: UNHCR conducted the third in a series of weekly training sessions for 11 refugee-camp-based police.
- Maban County: The global food distribution (GFD) for May was conducted simultaneously with soap distribution in the four refugee camps. UNHCR's new secondary food distribution site in Batil camp was operationalized, benefiting refugees by bringing GFD services closer to their homes.

Western Equatoria State

- UNHCR registered 73 refugees in Source Yubu and Tambura; 37 were new arrivals, and 36 were new born babies. All are from the Central African Republic.

Identified needs and remaining gaps

Upper Nile State

- Maban County: 60 refugees were reportedly asked to return to the camps by local authorities in Jinkwota after being found heading towards the northern part of Upper Nile State allegedly in search of work. The Commission for Refugee Affairs will convene meetings to sensitize refugees on the consequences of leaving the camps without authorization and also explain procedures for obtaining movement permits. UNHCR intends to sensitize refugees, during meetings scheduled in the week ahead, on the dangers of leaving the camps to find work.

Education

Achievements and Impact

Upper Nile State

- UNHCR continues to provide support to education partners to verify and register children not yet enrolled in school.
- A meeting was convened by the Maban County education director to appeal for more support to host community education. During the meeting UNHCR highlighted its support for the construction of 3 permanent schools in the host community, the training of host teachers and other material and technical support.
- UNHCR and partners will support the reopening of Bunj Secondary School through rehabilitation of the existing school building, provision of learning materials, community mobilization, the payment of school fees for UNHCR persons of concern attending the school, and payments towards teachers' salaries.
- UNHCR provided 24 corrugated iron sheets to Bankuman Primary School in Bunj through the Ministry of Education to rehabilitate the roof.

Food Security and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

Upper Nile State

- Maban County: The second part of a Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme started in the camps. 886 children under 5 were given a 15-day ration of Plumpy'Sup to treat Moderately Acute Malnutrition.
- In Doro, 420 mothers were provided with health education by an infant and young children feeding counsellor.

Identified needs and remaining gaps

Upper Nile State

- The monthly MUAC (middle upper arm circumference) screening trends have been released, confirming that the MUAC malnutrition level for children under-5 is above UNHCR standards (>10 per cent). Kaya was found to have 10.6 per cent malnourished under-5 children, with 1.2 per cent severe cases, and Gendrasa had 11.6 per cent, with 1.8 per cent severely malnourished cases. Overall, results show an increase in malnutrition levels in all camps compared to March. A thorough follow-up and continuous monitoring is required.



Health

Achievements and Impact

Central Equatoria State

- 2,029 children have so far been vaccinated against measles in Lasu camp, after two cases of the disease were detected there.

Unity State

- Prevention of mother to child HIV transmission (PMTCT) services have started in Yida camp.
- Ajuong Thok: Cases of conjunctivitis and chicken pox have reduced from 131 to 50, and 195 to 19 respectively in the reporting week.

Upper Nile State

- Integrated vaccination against polio and measles has been completed in Gendrassa, Yusuf Batil and Kaya camps.

Identified needs and remaining gaps

Unity State

- Consultations per clinician per day (99) remained well above the UNHCR standard of <50.



Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

Central Equatoria State

- Yei: 50 new refugee arrivals (26 households) in Lasu settlement were given standard NFI packages.

Unity State

- Yida: 163 individuals have received NFI assistance.



Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact

Upper Nile State

- Latrine coverage in Kaya has improved from 23 to 21 persons per latrine after the completion of over 200 household latrines.

Identified needs and remaining gaps

Unity State

- There are continuing water supply gaps in Ajuong Thok camp. Inadequate on-the-ground capacity, lack of functional water points for 35 blocks, and vandalism of WASH facilities are among the challenges.

Western Equatoria State

- WASH indicators are below the Sphere standard in Ezo and in Makpandu camps.



Logistics/Supply

- Insecurity between Jamjang and Malakal is causing excessive delays to 15 commercial trucks carrying core relief items for Malakal and Maban.

IDP RESPONSE



Protection

Achievements and Impact

Unity State

- Bentiu POC: The number of new arrivals has increased significantly. Most of the new arrivals - about 80 per cent - are women with children. IDPs who were registered before but left the POC to visit relatives in the villages, and those who used to come to the POC to collect food and return to their villages, have returned to the POC due to the fighting.
- UNHCR staff left Leer due to nearby fighting, but implementing partners remain and are providing critical services.
- UNHCR has been heavily involved in receiving new arrivals at the POC gate, guiding them to the proper location, as well as identifying vulnerable groups for priority registration and assistance services. Community Protection Volunteers have been continuously working in those areas, as well as food distribution and water point locations, to assist with crowd control and monitoring.
- Up to 5 May, 1,562 individuals were finger-printed for registration so they can get temporary registration cards and food assistance. Most of those who made it to the POC said they had come from Rubkona and Mayom counties.
- The current Acting Governor in Bentiu has indicated that over 600 households (about 4,750 individuals) are newly arrived in Bentiu town and need assistance.

Upper Nile State

- Melut: UNHCR and partners verified 533 new IDP arrivals from Atar, Khorfulus, Khorwai, Baliyet, Rom and Renk in Dinthoma I and II IDP settlements. Since April, 2,049 IDP new arrivals have been verified in Melut.
- Malakal POC: Preparations including identification of newly arriving people with special needs (PSN) and PSN to be moved to the new POC extension were jointly finalized by the Humanitarian Development Consortium and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC).

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Lakes State

- Mingkaman: 378 individuals were identified as having special protection needs.

Unity State

- The Protection Cluster is still concerned about the porous eastern perimeter of Bentiu POC site. The reinforcement of berms and deployment of additional UNMISS security personnel is urgently needed.
- The Protection Cluster continued to monitor the situation in southern Unity State following the evacuation of protection partners due to the deteriorating security situation. It remains unclear when partners will be able to return to the area.



Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Achievements and Impact

Upper Nile State

- The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) held a meeting with new IDP arrivals in Dinthoma I and II to inform them of their planned relocation, stressing its voluntary nature, and potential health hazards during the rainy season due to congestion in the two Dinthoma sites.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Lakes State

- Mingkaman: There has been flooding in some parts of the IDP settlement caused by the current rainfall. Site management has provided IDPs with tools and is working with IDPs to address the situation.
- 460 individuals left Mingkaman for nearby Bor for land preparation, while some cited poor shelters and lack of humanitarian assistance as reasons for returning to Bor.

Unity State

- Bentiu POC: The proposed date for verification and relocation of IDPs to the new site has again been put back for another week. Wristbands (required for the move) have yet to arrive in Bentiu, and six observation posts at the UNMISS site have yet to be completed. The deployment of additional UNMISS military personnel to man the perimeter is yet to be confirmed.
- Bentiu POC: Last week's rain has affected some of the shelters. DRC, in coordination with the WASH Cluster, tried to pump out standing water.
- Bentiu POC: Some of the plastic sheets used to cover shelters constructed for extremely vulnerable families by German Agro Action at the new site were reportedly stolen. It has now been agreed that shelter covers must be fixed in place at the time of relocation to avoid similar incidents.



Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

Lakes State

- Mingkaman: The Norwegian Refugee Council is distributing materials for the repair of some 800 shelters.

Unity State

- Bentiu POC: UNHCR has provided DRC with 50 plastic sheets to urgently construct communal family shelters in sub-POC 6.

Upper Nile State

- Melut County: IDPs from Jamam who are now residing in a school in Palouch have requested plastic sheeting for their shelters.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to US\$ 107,503,209 as of 6 May 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.

