

414,052,136 USD

Funding requested for comprehensive needs (27 per cent funded so far)

143,921,611 USD

Funding requested for top priority activities (80 per cent funded so far)

SOUTH SUDAN

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE 34/2015

1-15 September 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

- In the context of the closure of the Protection of Civilians (POC) 2 site in Juba by UNMISS, UNHCR assisted 461 asylum seekers to relocate to Juba town, Yambio town and Makpandu refugee settlement in Western Equatoria. As part of the relocation, UNHCR offered a grant and a kit of items for domestic use to all the asylum seekers who registered for relocation, in addition to air transport for those who opted to move to the urban Yambio area or Makpandu settlement. UNMISS effected the closure of POC 2 on 8 September.
- In Maban, UNHCR partner Samaritans' Purse conducted a week-long eye care campaign. Of the total of 1,430 patients screened during the campaign period, 678 were refugees; 401 patients benefited from cataract surgeries (64% refugees).
- In Pariang, UNHCR biometrically registered 10,500 IDPs in early September and conducted a participatory assessment of IDPs in various locations together with partners and Government counterparts. Preliminary findings show the following: 1) Gaps in registration and verification due to poor mobilization and information-sharing; 2) Food insecurity due to lack of registration documents; 3) Need to assist IDPs with shelter and non-food items; and 4) Need to restore education, health, and WASH facilities.

Current population of concern

IDPs since 15 Dec
2013



1,600,000

Of them, 201,000 IDPs reside in UNMISS Protection of Civilians sites

Refugees in South
Sudan



265,235

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

- The overall security situation in Upper Nile State remains very volatile and tense. In the south of Malakal, there has been intermittent fighting since 1 September. In Maban, the camps are calm, save for a series of unresolved criminal incidents in and around Batil and Gendrassa camps that have led to strained relations between the host community and refugees. Concerted efforts by CRA, local authorities and community leaders from both communities have calmed the situation.
- South Sudan's Legislative Assembly ratified the IGAD plus compromise peace deal on 10 September. A special parliamentary session was held, where all 212 legislators unanimously endorsed the peace deal. The deal was also unanimously endorsed by the SPLA-IO from their national headquarters in Pagak (Upper Nile), where Riek Machar was also at that time nominated as the First Vice President in the yet-to-be formed transitional government. This ratification is in line with the provision that both parties ratify the deal within one week of signing, with the documents received by both sides from IGAD on 2 September.
- The postponed IGAD-sponsored ceasefire and transitional security workshop went ahead in Addis Ababa, starting on 12 September. The workshop featured 15 senior military commanders from both the SPLA and SPLA-IO to discuss various areas of implementation to ensure the peace deal holds. These include discussion on ceasefire monitoring mechanism, deployment of joint police forces in key locations across South Sudan, withdrawal of foreign troops from the country and demilitarized zones. As the implementation of the peace process progresses, it is expected that a transitional government would be formed by late November/early December.
- UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon extended a formal invitation to President Kiir and South Sudan opposition leader Riek Machar to attend a high-level meeting on the sidelines of the 70th Session of the General Assembly on 29 September 2015. The meeting will be at Government and heads of state level, centered on galvanising support for the implementation of the peace process in South Sudan.
- On 10 September, a staff member of NGO Action Contre la Faim (ACF) was tragically shot and killed during a daytime robbery of the NGO's compound in Juba. Criminality in Juba is generally on the rise, and comes after the recent incident where two female NGO workers were assaulted and raped by unknown perpetrators in the capital.

REFUGEE RESPONSE



Protection

Achievements and Impact

Unity State

- UNHCR registered 173 new arrivals in Yida in the past week; 122 of them were relocated to Ajuong Thok camp. Since 23 December 2014, 14,475 new arrivals have been registered in Yida.
- UNHCR relocated 15,801 refugees from Yida to Ajuong Thok since 23 December 2014, bringing the camp population to 31,127.
- In Ajuong Thok, UNHCR partner Lutheran World Federation (LWF) distributed sanitary kits to 346 girls of reproductive age from Merowe primary school.

Upper Nile State

- In the first two weeks of September, 2,871 individuals out of 51,657 refugees at Doro camp were biometrically verified. As a result, 286 cases were inactivated and 64 closed, based on information from family members. During the exercise in Doro camp, UNHCR identified and referred to relevant partners 158 persons with specific needs, including 6 survivors of Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) and 34 child protection cases of various categories.

Central Equatoria State

- On 3 September, UNHCR completed the relocation of 241 asylum seekers from the Protection of Civilians (POC) 2 site to Juba town, Yambio town and Makpandu refugee settlement in Western Equatoria. Following the announcement of the closure of POC 2 by UNMISS, for over a month UNHCR has been engaging with this group of asylum seekers to share information on assistance options available to them upon departure from the POC site, respond to queries, and register those who voluntarily opted for one of the assistance packages. This included a grant and a kit of items for domestic use for all asylum seekers, in addition to air transport for those who opted to move to the urban Yambio area or Makpandu settlement. When UNMISS effected the closure of POC 2 on 8 September, 252 asylum seekers who have not departed from POC 2 were transferred to a transit facility in the outskirts of Juba, where UNHCR partner ACROSS provided emergency health and sanitation services as well as one-time emergency assistance of water, high-energy biscuits and milk. On 14 September, 220 of them opted to relocate to Juba and Yambio, bringing the total number of voluntary relocation to 461.

Western Equatoria State

- At Makpandu refugee settlement, UNHCR registered 29 new arrivals (10 families) from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, bringing the total number of refugees in the settlement to 3,379. UNHCR provided them with shelters and non-food items.



Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Achievements and Impact

Unity State

- The expansion of Ajuong Thok to ensure assistance and safe relocation of new arrivals is ongoing as following: upgrading of existing Ajuong Thok camp roads is 62% complete; construction of the Ajuong Thok camp 14 km perimeter road is 86% complete; rehabilitation of the Yida-Pariang road is 53% complete; and construction of Pamir refugee camp roads and the MONBATT ring road is 3% complete.



Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

Achievements and Impact

Unity State

- In Ajuong Thok, 30 refugees aged 17-26 graduated on 4 September from a 3-week life skills training course run by UNHCR partner Danish Refugee Council (DRC). This is the third batch of trainees to graduate this year.
- UNHCR partner CARE distributed 410 tree seedlings to refugee and host communities in Ajuong Thok to address the environmental degradation caused by the unsustainable cutting of trees for firewood and shelter construction.

Western Equatoria State

- In Yambio, UNHCR partner World Vision International (WVI) distributed tools and seeds to 150 refugee families to improve agricultural production, including hoes, hoe handles, groundnuts, rice, and maize and soya beans.
- In Makpandu refugee settlement, UNHCR started distributing agricultural tools, crop and vegetable kits donated by FAO to refugee and host communities, including maize, groundnuts, sesame seeds and hand hoes. The distribution aims to target 1,561 families (1,229 from the refugee community and another 332 from the host community).

Education

Achievements and Impact

Western Equatoria State

- UNHCR partner WVI organized a 5-day refresher training for 17 primary and adult literacy teachers in Ezo refugee settlement and another 5-day training for 23 primary and secondary school teachers in Makpandu refugee settlement. The trainings focused on classroom management, administration, school data collection and teachers' code of conduct.

Unity State

- UNHCR partner LWF completed the construction of 6 temporary classrooms in Napata and Makuria primary schools in Ajuong Thok has been completed, bringing the total number of classrooms in the two schools to 28. To date, 6,643 children are enrolled in primary schools in Ajuong Thok.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Upper Nile State

- In Maban, the newly recruited secondary school teachers from Juba were attacked, and their personal properties looted. As a protection measure, teachers have been moved to a safe location.
- To date, the construction of 211 classrooms has been completed in Maban refugee camps. However, there is a shortage of 330 classrooms in primary schools to accommodate 27,074 pupils, as per the current enrollment.

Unity State

- Attendance rates in Ajuong Thok dropped by 37% in the three primary schools and 10% in the seven child-friendly spaces compared to the end of the second term. According to learners, this was due to the 30% food ration cuts by WFP, as of August 2015.
- A water bladder damaged at Napata primary school in Ajuong Thok is interrupting water supplies to the school. The WASH team from UNHCR partner International Rescue Committee (IRC) is working on this.
- Due to lack of timber, only one temporary classroom out of 3 has so far been completed in Merowe primary school in Ajuong Thok.

Food Security and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

Upper Nile State

- In Kaya, Gendrassa and Batil, monthly Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) screening results showed that the Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rates among children under 5 years are within the UNHCR standards of <10% (Kaya: 5.2%, Gendrassa: 10.6%, and Batil: 2.69%).

Unity State

- The cure rate from both Outpatient Therapeutic Programme (OTP) and Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme (TSFP) reached over 85%, which is above the minimum expected standard of 75%.
- Mass MUAC screening was conducted in Yida targeting 4,954 Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW) and 8,649 children under 5 years. As a result, 76 children (0.9 %) were found to suffer from severe MUAC malnutrition while another 688 (8.8%) had moderate MUAC malnutrition. 135 women (2.7%) were found to suffer from severe MUAC malnutrition while 322 (9.2%) had moderate MUAC malnutrition.

Unity State

- At Makpandu refugee camp, UNHCR partner WVI distributed a total of 47 metric tons of sorghum to 3,134 refugees.

Identified needs and remaining gaps**Upper Nile State**

- The consistent incomplete food basket being distributed to the refugees in the camps in Maban remains an issue of major concern for UNHCR and the refugee community.
- In Doro, GAM rate for children under 5 years stands at 14.2%, while GAM rate for PLW stands at 29.8%. UNHCR is closely monitoring the situation.

**Health****Achievements and Impact****Upper Nile State**

- In Maban, UNHCR partner Samaritans' Purse conducted a week-long eye care campaign. Of the total of 1,430 patients screened during the campaign period, 678 were refugees; 401 patients benefited from cataract surgeries (64% of them refugees). UNHCR coordinated and provided material and logistics support to facilitate the campaign. A second round of eye campaigns is planned for November / December 2015.

Unity State

- The trend of malaria upsurge in Pariang County -mostly among host communities- is decreasing following a week-long awareness campaign organized by the County Health Department, CARE, and UNHCR. The campaign was conducted from 30 August to 6 September with the theme of "All families free from Malaria".

Identified needs and remaining gaps**Upper Nile State**

- MSF-Holland announced that they will phase out of Maban refugee response by 31 December 2015, starting to scale down their activities in October 2015. MSF has been supporting the refugee response in Maban since 2012, running a clinic in Gentil with a number of services such as Maternity, Pediatric In-Patient Department (IPD), In-Patient Therapeutic Feeding Center (ITFC), Emergency Room (ER), and Laboratory. The departure of MSF is expected to put an additional burden on primary health care providers (International Medical Corps and Medair) and overstretch the capacity of the Maban County Hospital, run by UNHCR partner Samaritan's Pursue. Health partners are looking into solutions that would limit the impact on service delivery and beneficiaries.

**Shelter and NFIs****Achievements and Impact****Upper Nile State**

- Out of 2,130 transitional shelters planned in Doro, UNHCR partner DRC completed 1,140 units (56%), noting that 930 shelters were recently added to the initial target for 2015. In Gendrassa camp, UNHCR partner ACTED completed 715 of the 768 transitional shelters planned for 2015 (93%).

Identified needs and remaining gaps

Upper Nile State

- In Maban, despite the enormous efforts to provide transitional shelters to refugees, 80 percent of refugee families are still living in tents.



Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact

Unity State

- In Ajuong Thok, UNHCR partner IRC constructed 98 family latrines in the camp in the last two weeks, giving a cumulative figure of 2,862. Crude latrine coverage is 11 people per drop hole, which meets the UNHCR standard of a maximum of 20 persons per latrine.
- In Ajuong Thok, 167 primary and secondary school students attended hygiene education sessions on malaria prevention, disposal of excreta, communicable diseases, and good personal hygiene practices.
- In Ajuong Thok, UNHCR and partner IRC conducted a training for 46 members of the water management committee and 27 block leaders to promote ownership of WASH facilities and encourage community participation in WASH projects design.
- In Yida, UNHCR partner Samaritan's Pursue constructed 113 family and 16 communal latrines bringing the total number to 6,934 family and 450 communal latrines in the settlement.

Western Equatoria State

- UNHCR partner WVI completed 66 latrines in in Ezo and Makpandu settlements, including 31 for refugees with specific needs.

Identified needs and remaining gaps

Unity State

- In Ajuong Thok, UNHCR supplied 834 m³ of water to 31,127 individuals in the last two weeks. However, crude litres per person per day stands at 12, which is below the UNHCR standard of 20 per person per day and also below the Sphere standard of 15. Rainfall and cooler weather are seen as reasons for this drop.

IDP RESPONSE



Protection

OPERATIONS

Achievements and Impact

Upper Nile State

- In Melut County, UNHCR and partner DRC distributed non-food items to 1,613 individual with specific needs in Khor Adar and Malek on 3 and 4 September 2015.

Unity State

- In the first two weeks of September, 2,433 IDPs (835 families) arrived in Bentiu POC site mainly from Leer and Mayendit while smaller numbers arrived from Nhialdiu and Koch. IDPs from Leer and Mayendit cited deterioration in

the security situation and severe food shortages as reasons for fleeing; IDPs who arrived from Koch reported that they have fled due to a recent drought; those who came from Nhialdiu mentioned forced recruitment of youth, rape and looting as reasons for fleeing.

- In Pariang, UNHCR biometrically registered 10,500 IDPs in early September and conducted a participatory assessment of IDPs in various locations together with partners and Government counterparts. Preliminary findings show the following: 1) Gaps in registration and verification due to poor mobilization and information-sharing; 2) Food insecurity due to lack of registration documents; 3) Need to assist IDPs with shelter and non-food items; and 4) Need to restore education, health, and WASH facilities.

Jonglei State

- In Bor town, UNHCR identified 896 vulnerable IDPs (136 families) in need of protection assistance, including distribution of non-food items. Since June, UNHCR has identified 6,245 vulnerable IDPs (973 families) at the Bor dock site.
- UNHCR partner Non-violent Peace Force reunited 14 children with their families in Akobo, bringing the total number of reunited children to 75 since the beginning of 2015.

Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

Jonglei State

- At Mingkaman IDP site, UNHCR partner Human Development Consortium (HDC) constructed 26 shelters for extremely vulnerable individuals, bringing the total number of shelters to 138 out of the 152 shelters planned for 2015.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Jonglei State

- At Mingkaman IDP site, increasing demands for rehabilitation and repairs of shelters for the general population remains a challenge.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Achievements and Impact

Eastern Equatoria State

- UNHCR partner Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) conducted a two-day training for 20 staff members from local and international organizations and 31 community leaders in Nimule on Camp Coordination and Camp concepts and practices.

Contributions by UNHCR's main donors in 2015

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to US\$ 113,375,166 as of 15 September 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.

