

SOUTH SUDAN

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE 5/2016

1 -15 March 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

- **UNHCR commemorates International Women’s Day with refugees and IDPs** - On 8 March, the International Women’s Day, UNHCR and partners marked the annual commemoration with a wide range of activities in refugee camps and sites for internally displaced people across South Sudan, including poems and awareness campaigns about women’s resilience, sports, drama and processions under the theme “pledge for gender parity.”
- **UNHCR reaches out to vulnerable IDPs with non-food items across South Sudan** – UNHCR distributed non-food items to 8,291 vulnerable internally displaced people in Unity, Upper Nile, Jonglei, Lakes, Western Equatoria and Central Equatoria, including blankets, mats, kitchen sets, jerry cans, buckets, plastic sheeting, mosquito nets, soap and sanitary pads for women of reproductive age.
- **UNHCR and FAO begin implementation of a livelihoods project in Central Equatoria** – In Lasu settlement, UNHCR and partner UMCOR registered 2,620 families (1,834 refugee families and 786 host community families) for distribution of agricultural inputs such as field crops seeds, vegetable seeds and tools, as part of a strategy to enhance livelihoods opportunities in cooperation with the Food Agriculture Organization (FAO).

275,566,214 USD

Funding requested for comprehensive needs in 2016

120,021,666 USD

Funding requested for prioritized needs in 2016

Current population of concern

IDPs since 15
December 2013



Of them, 191,268 IDPs reside in UNMISS Protection of Civilians sites

Refugees in South
Sudan



OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

- On 14 March, the Troika, consisting of the US, Norway and Britain, confirmed that it will not transport the first security team of the Sudan's People Liberation Movement in Opposition (SPLM-IO) forces to Juba with heavy weapons, in line with the rules of their membership and the provisions of the peace agreement. Last week, both parties blamed the Troika for failing to transport 1,370 opposition troops to Juba. These forces are required in the capital for the return of First Vice-President Riek Machar, who would then work with President Salva Kiir to form a transitional government. The Troika said they could only transport the forces with light weapons.
- The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) released a report on 11 March, describing "in searing detail" a multitude of horrendous human rights violations, including a Government-operated "scorched earth policy," and deliberate targeting of civilians for killing, rape and pillage. Although all parties to the conflict have committed patterns of serious and systematic violence against civilians since December 2013, the report says state actors bore the greatest responsibility during 2015, given the weakening of opposition forces. From April to September 2015, the UN recorded more than 1,300 reports of rape in Unity only. According to OHCHR, no new support should be given to South Sudanese authorities until major reforms are undertaken toward justice and accountability. The South Sudan presidency said UN report is 'unethical.'
- On 11 March, the United Nations announced they would conduct an investigation into how the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) responded to clashes on 17 and 18 February in its Protection of Civilians (POC) site in Malakal.
- Amnesty International released a report on 10 March describing in detail one particular incident of war crimes and other violations of human rights by government forces in Leer town. Between 20 and 23 October 2015, South Sudanese government forces detained dozens of individuals, primarily men, but also some boys, in at least one shipping container in Leer town, causing the death of 62 people.
- According to WFP South Sudan Market Price Monitoring Bulletin, the South Sudanese Pound (SSP) underwent further depreciation, fueling an already very high cost of living for households highly dependent on markets, particularly the urban poor, vulnerable populations in rural areas and the displaced who have limited or no access to humanitarian assistance. Year-on-year inflation grew by 216 percent, an unprecedented historical high. The black market exchange rate of the SSP against the US Dollar (USD) reached 36 SSP/1US\$ in the second week of March 2016, slightly higher than the official rate of 32 SSP/1US\$.

REFUGEE RESPONSE



Protection

Achievements and Impact

Unity

- UNHCR and South Sudan's Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA) undertook a mission to Yida to continue discussions with partners and authorities on the relocation of refugees to Ajuong Thok and Pamir. The government reiterated its intention to close down Yida settlement by 30 June 2016 and to support the relocation operation. UNHCR confirmed its commitment to extend a helping hand to the host communities in Yida.
- In Yida, UNHCR registered 333 new arrivals from Sudan's South Kordofan in the first two weeks of March, bringing the total number of new arrivals since 1 January 2016 to 2,381. The vast majority came from Heban, Umdoreen and Boram Counties. During the reporting period, 387 refugees were relocated from Yida to Ajuong Thok, including new arrivals and long-standing residents of Yida. This brings the total number of refugees relocated to Ajuong Thok since the beginning of the year to 2,460.
- In Ajuong Thok, UNHCR placed 11 unaccompanied minors and separate children in foster care and helped reunite four separated children with their parents.
- In Ajuong Thok, UNHCR partner International Rescue Committee (IRC) organized a three-day training on human rights, refugee rights and South Sudanese for 12 members of Ajuong Thok's Conflict Resolution Committee.

Upper Nile

- In Maban, UNHCR and its partners Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and Save the Children International (SCI) conducted human-centered design training for child protection partners to help them develop innovative solutions to better engage with children in child friendly spaces.

Identified needs and remaining gaps**Upper Nile**

- In Maban, UNHCR and partners identified 98 cases of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence since January. About 64 percent are incidents of domestic violence, while 9 percent are cases of forced marriage. About 15 percent of the cases involved children. During the reporting period, UNHCR conducted 12 sessions with refugees and host communities to raise awareness against SGBV and identified 60 safe homes for SGBV survivors.

 **Education**

Achievements and Impact**Unity**

- In Ajuong Thok, UNHCR education partners continued to register new arrival learners at Napata primary school. In the first two weeks of March, 48 new learners were enrolled, bringing the total numbers of learners enrolled in the primary school to 6,650 (4,087 boys and 2,563 girls). The average attendance rate stood at 5, 813.

Upper Nile

- In Maban, UNHCR partner SCI conducted a one-day training on Code of Conduct for 20 participants, including teacher-trainees, Education and Protection Officers.

Western Equatoria

- In Makpandu camp, UNHCR partner World Vision International (WVI) continued to enroll pupils and children in primary and secondary schools, with 720 enrolled in primary education and 124 in secondary education since January 2016. Furthermore, 92 refugees have so far enrolled in the Adult Learning Programme (ALP).

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps**Unity**

- In Ajuong Thok camp, congestion in the primary schools remains a challenge. UNHCR is making arrangements to construct additional learning spaces.

**Food Security and Nutrition****Achievements and Impact****Upper Nile**

- In Kaya and Batil camps, World Food Programme (WFP) completed March's General Food Distribution (GFD), reaching some 63,500 refugees. Distribution in Doro and Gendrassa camps is yet to be completed at time of writing. The 30 percent-reduced food basket included cereals, pulses and cooking oil.

Western Equatoria

- In Makpandu camp, UNHCR partner WVI conducted February's GFD, reaching some 3,600 refugees. The 30 percent-reduced food basket included maize and sorghum.

Central Equatoria

- In Lasu settlement, UNHCR partner ACROSS carried out February's GFD, reaching some 10,700 refugees. The 30 percent-reduced food basket included sorghum, salt, yellow peas, vegetable oil and salt.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In Western Equatoria's Makpandu camp, yellow peas, vegetable oil and salt were missing from February's GFD, while in Central Equatoria's Lasu settlement, vegetable oil and yellow peas were not enough for all the refugees.

**Health****Achievements and Impact****Unity**

- In Ajuong Thok, UNHCR partner Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA) in collaboration with UNICEF trained 54 community health promoters on integrated community case management to help them improve treatment of malaria, diarrhea and pneumonia among children.

**Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance**

- On 8 March, the International Women's Day, UNHCR and partners marked the annual commemoration with a wide range of activities in refugee camps across South Sudan, including poems and awareness campaigns about women's resilience, sports, drama and processions. In keeping with this year's slogan, "pledge for gender parity" the focus was on access to safe delivery and maternity services, especially for vulnerable mothers.

Unity

- In Ajuong Thok, UNHCR and partners trained 145 women on crocheting, bread making, and embroidery.

Central Equatoria

- In Lasu settlement, UNHCR and partner UMCOR registered 2,620 families (1,834 refugee families and 786 host community families) for distribution of agricultural inputs such as field crops seeds, vegetable seeds and tools, as part of a strategy to enhance livelihoods opportunities in cooperation with the Food Agriculture Organization (FAO).

IDP RESPONSE**Protection***COORDINATION***Achievements and Impact**

- Protection partners continued to respond to the situation in the Malakal POC site following the violence of 17 and 18 February 2016. From 2 to 11 March, the national Protection Cluster was on mission in Malakal to help protection partners prepare the Malakal Protection Response Plan (March-May 2016).
- On 3 March, the Protection Cluster met with the evaluation team from the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations to assess the utility and effectiveness of the Protection of Civilians Strategy in South Sudan. Discussions emphasized the need for joint analysis and planning with humanitarians, and for UNMISS to scale up its mobile capacity outside POC sites.

OPERATIONS**Unity**

- In Bentiu POC site, UNHCR identified 563 vulnerable families including unaccompanied children with critical medical condition, elderly, persons with disabilities and single parents with small children. About 14 SGBV cases, committed outside the POC, were also identified and referred them to Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) and IRC for medical assistance and psychosocial counseling. UNHCR has also identified 85 extremely vulnerable families among new arrivals and referred them to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for biometric registration and shelter. Bentiu POC currently hosts 119,647 internally displaced people.

Lakes

- In the occasion of International Women's Day, UNHCR conducted awareness sessions with 82 IDPs in Mingkaman on the need and collective responsibility to "end girl child marriage".

**Shelter and NFIs****Achievements and Impact****Unity**

- In Bentiu POC site, UNHCR distributed non-food items (NFIs) to 1,523 vulnerable IDPs, including blankets, mats, kitchen sets, jerry cans, buckets, plastic sheeting, soap and sanitary pads for women of reproductive age.

Upper Nile

- In Malakal, UNHCR partner Humane Development Consortium (HDC) distributed NFIs to 180 people with special needs, following a protection assessment.

Lakes

- In Rumbek, UNHCR partner Plan International distributed NFIs to 522 vulnerable IDPs who were displaced by communal conflict in Cueibet County.

Jonglei

- In Bor, UNHCR distributed NFIs to 360 vulnerable IDPs and returnees from Pagook village.

Western Equatoria

- In Yambio town, UNHCR and other agencies distributed NFIs to 4,870 vulnerable IDPs, with UNHCR contributing plastic sheets, kitchen sets, and laundry soaps.

Central Equatoria

- In Yei town, UNHCR distributed NFIs to 1,196 vulnerable IDPs (281 families) who were displaced from Mundri, Maridi and Yambio over the past months.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to USD 5,519,821 as of 15 March 2016. 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)

Japan	3,500,000
Educate A Child Programme - EAA	1,726,396
Melinda and Bill Gates Foundation	119,498
Vodafone Foundation	80,541
UN Prog. On HIV/AIDS	80,250
Spain	13,115