

SOUTH SUDAN

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE 6/2016

15 -31 March 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

- UNHCR responds to malnutrition among refugees in Unity and Upper Nile** - UNHCR in consultation with WFP and UNICEF began implementation of preventive and mitigating measures to tackle malnutrition, chronic malnutrition and anemia in refugee camps in Unity and Upper Nile, including blanket and targeted supplementary feeding programmes, and therapeutic feeding. A nutrition survey, conducted in the last quarter of 2015, indicates higher rate of malnutrition in all surveyed refugee camps as compared to 2014, although the prevalence of malnutrition remains within normal limits in Unity. Such an increase is mainly attributed to the 30 percent reduction of food rations as from August 2015, frequent breaks in the food pipeline, incomplete food baskets, upsurge of malaria and diarrhea. The survey also found that anemia is high among children under 5 years and women of reproductive age. Chronic malnutrition (stunting) was also found to be high among children under 5 years. High prevalence of anemia and stunting are due to micronutrient deficiencies and malaria among others.
- UNHCR builds new school for refugees in Unity to ease congestion** - In Ajuong Thok camp, UNHCR partner Action Africa Help International began constructing a new primary school to help decrease classroom congestion. With three primary schools currently operating in the camp and the steady arrivals of new refugees from Sudan's South Kordofan, the average classroom-to-pupil ratio stands at 1:110.
- A new road helps communities access services in a refugee camp in Upper Nile** - In Maban County, South Sudan's Commission for Refugee Affairs and local Payam Administration inaugurated a new road -funded by UNHCR- connecting the host community villages of Kongo Mamur and Kongo Farajala to Yusuf Batil camp, where health care and education services are available.

275,668,213 USD

Funding requested for comprehensive needs in 2016

120,198,666 USD

Funding requested for prioritized needs in 2016

Current population of concern

IDPs since 15
December 2013



Of them, 188,144 IDPs reside in UNMISS Protection of Civilians sites

Refugees in South
Sudan



OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

- On 28 March, a first batch of 39 Sudan's People Liberation Movement-In Opposition (SPLM-IO) soldiers arrived in Juba from Upper Nile's Pagak as part of implementation of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (ARCSS). They are part of a larger group of 1,370 SPLM-IO soldiers set to deploy in Juba ahead of the arrival of First Vice-President Riek Machar. As the latter will set foot in the capital city, the parties to the peace deal are expected to form the Transitional Government of National Unity (TGoNU).
- The South Sudanese army accused the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) from neighbouring Sudan of allegedly carrying out air attacks on 24 and 26 March in the Upper Nile region. A total of 24 bombs were allegedly dropped on army and police posts in Renk County, killing some livestock. The Sudanese army however denied the accusation. The relations between Sudan and South Sudan have deteriorated recently after renewed counter-accusations of supporting each other's opposition forces.
- On 23 March, the Human Rights Council adopted a resolution establishing a Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan with the mandate to, inter alia, monitor and report on the situation of human rights in the country and to make recommendations for its improvement. The Council requested the Commission to present a comprehensive written report, in an interactive dialogue, to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-fourth session.
- On 23 March, South Sudan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs called on the neighboring Sudanese government to reverse its decision which required South Sudanese citizens living in Sudan to have their country's passports in order to qualify for staying in Sudan. On 17 March the Sudanese government in its weekly cabinet meeting chaired by President Omer al-Bashir decided to end its open door policy for South Sudanese. Khartoum said no South Sudanese nationals will be allowed to reside in the country without identity card from his government and an entry visa.
- On 19 March, fighting broke out amongst ethnic Nuer in the Protection of Civilians (POC) site in Juba, forcing some 200 people to flee outside the site. UN peacekeepers intervened with teargas to break up the fighting, which continued until evening. One person was killed and more than 150 others were wounded. According to media report, the fighting erupted over gambling. The situation had returned to normal by 21 March.
- On 18 March, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced the appointment of Nicholas Haysom of South Africa as his Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan. He will succeed Eritrean diplomat Haile Menkerios.
- On 17 March, the UN Security Council issued a statement, expressing deep alarm at the situation in South Sudan, calling upon the Government to uphold its responsibility for the protection of civilians and to prosecute those responsible for firing on civilians at the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) POC site in Malakal in February.

REFUGEE RESPONSE



Protection

Achievements and Impact

Unity

- In Yida settlement, UNHCR registered 422 new arrivals from Sudan's South Kordofan in the last two weeks of March, bringing the total number of new arrivals since 1 January 2016 to 2,803. The vast majority are women and children, with unaccompanied minors and separated children representing 10 percent of the new arrivals. They came from Heban, Umdoreen and Boram Counties and reported hunger as the main reason for their flight to South Sudan. During the reporting period, 492 refugees were relocated from Yida to Ajuong Thok, including 254 new arrivals and 238 long-standing residents of Yida. This brings the total number of refugees relocated to Ajuong Thok since the beginning of the year to 2,952.
- In Ajuong Thok camp, UNHCR placed 18 unaccompanied minors and separate children in foster care and helped reunite 6 separated children with their parents.

- In Ajuong Thok camp, UNHCR partner International Rescue Committee (IRC) identified 21 vulnerable women and girls and provided them with underwear, clothes and shoes. So far, 185 women and girls have been supported since January 2016.
- In Ajuong Thok camp, the child help desk, run by UNHCR partner Lutheran World Federation (LWF), provided counseling and assistance to 71 children, including enrolment in child friendly spaces (CFS), clothes and shoes, referral for medical attention and shelter support.

Upper Nile

- In Maban camps, UNHCR and partners conducted 12 awareness-raising sessions for 635 refugee and host community members about the importance of girls' education, domestic violence and forced marriage.
- In Maban camps, UNHCR and partner Save the Children carried out a training for 20 police officers on child rights and legal instruments for child protection as well as on the role of the police in protecting children and preventing and responding to Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV).
- In Maban camps, 39 CFS continued to engage children in traditional plays, games, art and skills building. Since January 2016, more than 10,000 children have joined CFS activities, including 38 children with disabilities.

Western Equatoria

- In Makpandu camp, UNHCR identified and assisted 13 SGBV survivors, including through psychosocial support, medical and legal counseling.
- In Makpandu camp, UNHCR partner World Vision International (WVI) conducted a workshop for 40 representatives of the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) on child rights and the role and responsibility of communities in protecting children from violence.

Education

Achievements and Impact

Unity

- In Ajuong Thok camp, UNHCR partner Action Africa Help International (AAHI) began constructing a new primary school to help decrease classroom congestion. This will bring the total number of primary schools in the camp to four. Furthermore, UNHCR partner LWF constructed a temporary classroom to replace a tented one that had been destroyed by windstorm. There are currently 59 primary school classrooms in the camp, including 28 permanent and 31 temporary. Some 6,522 children are attending primary school in the camp and the average classroom-to-pupil ratio stands at 1:110.

Upper Nile

- In Yusuf Batil camp, UNHCR and partners LWF and Danish Refugee Council (DRC) carried an assessment of primary school facilities and found that 72 classrooms are currently hosting 8,822 children – which gives an average classroom-to-pupil ratio of 1:115. They agreed to build 18 additional classrooms to reduce congestion. In Maban's four refugee camps, a total of 27,145 children attend primary school and the average classroom-to-pupil ratio stands at 1:115.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Western Equatoria

- Makpandu secondary school continued to face challenges in obtaining textbooks for learners and teachers. UNHCR is following up with the Ministry of Education in Yambio.
- In Makpandu camp, UNHCR and partner WVI are looking into the reasons behind the high rate of absenteeism among refugee students.



Achievements and Impact

Upper Nile

- In Gendrassa and Kaya camps, UNHCR partner International Medical Corps (IMC) kicked off a pilot study of newborn health in humanitarian settings. The objective is to collect data and information necessary to improve health service delivery for women and their newborns, train health workforce and design a mechanism for effective use of newborn health information. This study will also look into the feasibility of deploying an inter-agency field guide on newborn health in emergencies at a global level. Among the study participants are Save the Children, UNICEF, South Sudan's Ministry of Health, and Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, in addition to IMC. A similar study is being undertaken in Juba and Malakal Protection of Civilian sites.
- Following reports of meningitis in Maban camps, UNHCR and health partners organized a refresher on meningitis prevention and response for health care providers as well as the protocols.



Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR released the 2015 nutrition survey reports of refugee camps in Upper Nile and Unity, conducted in the last quarter of 2015. The study results indicate higher rate of malnutrition in all surveyed camps as compared to 2014, although the prevalence of malnutrition remains within normal limits in Unity (Yida settlement and Ajuong Thok camp). Such an increase is mainly attributed to the 30 percent reduction of food rations as from August 2015, frequent breaks in the food pipeline, incomplete food baskets, upsurge of malaria and diarrhea. The survey also found that anemia is high among children under 5 years and women of reproductive age. Chronic malnutrition (stunting) was found to be high among children under 5 years. High prevalence of anemia and stunting are due to micronutrient deficiencies and malaria among others. UNHCR in consultation with WFP and UNICEF began implementation of preventive and mitigating measures, including blanket and targeted supplementary feeding programmes as well as therapeutic feeding. The surveys were carried out in collaboration with South Sudan's Ministry of Health, World Food Program (WFP), UNICEF and UNHCR partners Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA), Care, IMC, International Rescue Committee (IRC), Medair, Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) and Samaritan's Pursue (SP).

Unity

- In Yida and Ajuong Thok, WFP completed March's General Food Distribution (GFD), reaching nearly 100,000 refugees. The 30 percent-reduced food basket included cereals, pulses and cooking oil.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Unity

- In Yida, UNHCR partner MSF carried out a Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) screening among children under 5 years to assess the level of malnutrition. The results indicate that the malnutrition rate increased from 7.9 percent to 9.3 percent compared to the previous two months. This is mainly due to the arrival of malnourished children from Sudan. UNHCR and partners are working to enhance identification of and response to high-risk malnourished children.

Central Equatoria

- In Gorom camp, March's GFD was delayed until the last week of the month and two commodities –pulses and vegetable oil- were not enough to cover the entire camp population of 1,932 refugees. UNHCR registered all families who did not receive these commodities and is in discussion with WFP to resolve this issue.



Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact

Unity

- In Ajuong Thok camp, UNHCR partner SP completed the installation of a five cubic metre water bladder tank to increase water supply among refugees, which decreased from 18.6 litre per person per day (l/p/d) in the first two weeks of March to 16.8 l/p/d - slightly below UNHCR standards of 20 l/p/d. This is due to the ongoing arrival of Sudanese refugees from South Kordofan and Yida, resulting in a higher demand for water. Since January 2016, there are 2,952 additional refugees in Ajuong Thok.
- In Yida, the average water coverage stood at 19.7 l/p/d.

Upper Nile

- In Maban camps, the average water coverage stood at 23 l/p/d. The average latrine-to-refugee ratio is 13:1, which is within UNHCR standards of a maximum of 20 persons per latrine
- In Maban camps, UNHCR continued to upgrade existing motorized boreholes into boreholes with solar-powered water pumping system. So far, 26 of 35 motorized boreholes have been enhanced, in addition to three solarized booster stations in Kaya.



Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

Western Equatoria

- In Makpandu camp, UNHCR and partner WVI began distribution of second-hand clothes for some 3,500 refugees.



Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Achievements and Impact

Upper Nile

- In Maban County, South Sudan's Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA) and the local Payam Administration opened newly constructed road connecting Yusuf Batil camp to host community villages of Kongo Mamur and Kongo Farajala. The road, funded by UNHCR, is expected to improve host community's access to health care and education services as well as to the camp market, in so improving refugee-host interactions.



Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

Central Equatoria

- In Gorom camp, UNHCR partner ACROSS conducted a training for 210 farmers (170 from the refugee community and 40 others from the host community) on harvest and post-harvest handling, plants management and disease identification. This is to help the community become more food secure and self-reliant. In preparation for the coming planting season, refugee and host community farmers have begun clearing their land prior to receiving seeds and agricultural tools by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) through UNHCR.

Western Equatoria

- In Makpandu camp, UNHCR partner WVI donated six brick press machines to refugees.

IDP RESPONSE



Protection

COORDINATION

Achievements and Impact

- From 21-23 March, the Protection Cluster (PC) visited Bentiu to support an Inter-Cluster Working Group mission aiming to explore how the humanitarian response can be expanded in Unity State. The PC participated in inter-cluster field visits to Ding Ding, Rubkona Town, Bentiu Town and Kuach. Together with Bentiu protection partners, the PC provided inputs to the “Beyond Bentiu Response Plan,” which is being developed for Nhialdu, Nimni and Kuach catchment areas.
- On 17 March, the Protection Cluster brought together 23 coordinators and co-coordinators of state- and site-level Protection Clusters and Sub-Clusters for a workshop to discuss challenges and lessons learned. The outcome was a comprehensive action plan on how to strengthen information-sharing and coordination efforts at the site level and between the site and Juba levels.

Identified needs and remaining gaps

Upper Nile

- The situation in the Malakal POC site remains concerning following the incidents of 17-18 February 2016. Protection partners continue to implement the “Malakal Protection Response Plan”, notably to create the conditions that will allow for the relocation of IDPs from the UNMISS Logbase to the POC site.

OPERATIONS

Unity

- In the Bentiu POC site, UNHCR and partners identified 23 vulnerable families, including unaccompanied children, elderly, persons with disabilities and single parents with small children. About 10 SGBV cases, committed outside the POC, were also identified and referred to MSF and IRC for medical assistance and psychosocial counseling. Bentiu POC currently hosts 116,538 internally displaced people.
- UNHCR and protection partners continued to provide support to vulnerable IDPs outside the Bentiu POC, including in Rubkona, Guit and Mankien. Since January, 7,352 individuals (2,258 families) received non-food items.
- In Kuoch County’s Buaw Payam, some 100 km south of Bentiu, UNHCR and protection partners identified 1,070 vulnerable IDP families in need of assistance. Plans for provision of relief items are underway.

Lakes

- In Mingkaman’s IDP site 3, UNHCR partner Humane Development Consortium (HDC) in cooperation with UNFPA conducted two sessions on reproductive health for 101 women and girls, with a focus on antenatal care and advocacy for safe delivery in hospitals.



Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

Upper Nile

- In Baliet, UNHCR distributed non-food items to 50 vulnerable IDP families, including blankets, sleeping mats, mosquito nets, plastic sheeting, water cans and soap.

Lakes

- In Marik, UNHCR distributed non-food items to 180 vulnerable IDP families (903 individuals), including blankets, sleeping mats, mosquito nets, plastic sheeting, water cans and soap.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to USD 7,392,481 as of 31 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)