



UNHCR SOUTH SUDAN

Refugee Emergency Weekly Update

UPPER NILE STATE

15-21 February 2012

Visit <http://data.unhcr.org/SouthSudan> for the latest information on refugees including statistics, operational updates, assessments and maps.

Current context/main developments

- Upper Nile state has the largest concentration of refugees fleeing conflict in Sudan. They are from Blue Nile state and number close to 80,000. In parts of Maban county where they are all located, refugees outnumber local populations by 6 to 1.
- The continuing influx of refugees is evidenced by pockets of new arrivals in different border zones.
- The supply of water in Maban county is a major challenge. The yield from existing boreholes is insufficient to meet minimum standards. Efforts to drill new boreholes are continuing amid great difficulties. Until sustainable solutions are found, water is being trucked to the sites on a daily basis.

Statistics

SETTLEMENT	REGISTERED POPULATION	INCREASE OVER LAST WEEK	REMARKS
Doro	43,483	5,053	• An estimated 250 families arrived in Doro from Belatuma in Blue Nile state.
Jamam	32,427	-	
TOTAL	75,910	5,053	

Protection analysis

- **Border monitoring** missions are conducted on an ongoing basis, to verify information provided by refugees and local authorities about new arrivals and to arrange for their relocation to formal settlements that have been established in Doro and Jamam. It is difficult to assess the daily rate of arrival as entry points are dispersed along the border between Upper Nile and Blue Nile states. On the other hand, new arrivals are a constant, which indicates that the situation inside Blue Nile state is still volatile. During the week, missions were conducted in the following locations:
 - **New Guffa:** UNHCR protection staff were unable to confirm reports that there are 20-30,000 new arrivals in the area. Many may not have crossed the border. Monitoring missions are continuing.
 - **El Shata:** UNHCR protection staff confirmed the presence of a group of about 50 children, women and older persons. They will be relocated as soon as possible. A claim that 1,700 people will arrive in the area soon could not be verified.
 - **Elfoj:** Protection monitors found 250 new arrivals. This group claimed that another 250 were on the way. These reports underscore the importance of routine border monitoring.
- Meanwhile, small groups of women who were spotted moving back towards the border informed UNHCR staff that they were returning to their villages to harvest the fields despite being fearful about the possibility of aerial bombing.

- **Registration**: 5,503 new arrivals were registered in Doro during the week. Level 1 registration of new arrivals (family headcount) was suspended temporarily in order to complete food distribution, and will resume shortly. The sheer pace of the influx is imposing massive pressure on the capacities and resources of humanitarian actors. Level 2 registration (individual) will commence in Upper Nile after all sites in Unity state are completed.
- **Refugee settlements**: With a burgeoning refugee population—it swelled from 54,000 in December to almost 80,000 in mid-February— site planners have designed village-like clusters with communal facilities to avoid the development of shantytowns. Communities are mobilized by village-of-origin to settle in these clusters.
- **Other protection activities**: Protection meetings are held routinely with community leaders in both settlements and with partners. Community-watch groups have been trained in Doro. There is systematic coordination with Norwegian People’s Aid on clearance of UXOs in settlements before refugees occupy them.

Operational response

- **Shelter**: UNHCR airlifted 11,000 tents to Maban County to ensure that all new arrivals have immediate access to family shelters. Priority is given to the most vulnerable, including female headed households older persons and disabled individuals. In some cases, pitching of tents may be delayed pending UXO clearance or drainage work.
- **Food and non-food items**: During the week, WFP commenced distribution for 43,483 refugees at Doro. Pulses and cereals were distributed to more than 23,250 refugees between 18 and 20 February.
- **Water**: In Jamam the only water sources are two boreholes; there are currently no safe water sources within the refugee settlement. OXFAM trucks water from boreholes with UNHCR’s support. There are four trucks and four bladders with tap stands within the settlement. The current average potable water supply for refugees in Jamam is about 5.5 litres/person/day (l/p/d) compared to the minimum standard of 7 l/p/d. In Doro, the water situation is critical; refugees are receiving a paltry 4 l/p/d. Hydrological surveys in Doro and Jamam are an integral part of site planning; where potential has been identified, impenetrable rock or loose spongy clay are hindrances. Efforts are continuing to secure sufficiently large rigs to overcome these obstacles.
- **Sanitation**: In Jamam, OXFAM is constructing communal emergency latrines (separate males and female). 400 pits have been excavated of which 170 have been equipped with superstructure. In Doro, emergency communal latrines have been constructed by IOM (154), UNICEF (30) and MSF-B (25). Refugees have also constructed a number of household latrines on their own. Many indicated during interviews that they defecate in the bush. In both settlements, hygiene promotion activities are on-going.