

## UNHCR Weekly Refugees Update

Week Ending 10 June 2012

### Overview

**New Arrivals:** At the beginning of 2012, South Sudan hosted 105,000 refugees. Some 75,350 were in Upper Nile and Unity states while 30,000 were in Western Equatoria, Central Equatoria and Jonglei states. As of May, the refugee population has increased to 193,300.



*New arrivals in Hofra, Upper Nile State [Photo by P. Rulashe, UNHCR]*

Unity state, has on average been receiving 800 new arrivals per day since the beginning of June 2012. Given current trends, the refugee population in Unity state is projected to surpass the 50,000 mark shortly.

In Upper Nile state, some 32,000 new arrivals, most of whom crossed the border between mid and end May are temporarily camped in Hofra some 25 kilometres from the border. This situation is dire and all effort are being deployed to secure their rapid relocation to established settlements with adequate services at safer distances from the border. There is an urgent need to complete the relocation of 15,000 refugees from the Jammam site due to insufficient water in the area, while several thousands have already been assisted to move to Doro and Batil, a further site is being identified for the rest of the group on the Nile bank, on the western side of the state.

### New Developments

**Emergency Response in Hofra:** About 32,000 are currently in Hofra. These refugees are being screened and provided with emergency medical treatment and water. They are also provided with emergency food rations as many of them arrive having spent days without food. Basic communal emergency latrines are being put in place. Water sources are extremely limited in the area and water is being treated by MSF from local hafirs. A one-month soap ration has been provided to all 32,000 new arrivals.

It is planned to move the whole group to Batil site (17 km south of Bunj) to take advantage of the access-window before the rainy season escalates and the roads are completely impassable.

#### Statistics at a Glance 10/06/2012

##### Upper Nile State 112,160 Refugees

Doro	40,289
Yusuk Batil	5,000
Jammam	34,871
Hofra*	**32,000

##### Unity State 51,189 Refugees

Yida*	**48,042
Pariang	2,355
Nyeel	792

##### \*\*\*WES, CES & Jonglei 29,951 Refugees

CES	10,894
WES	15,558
Jonglei	3,499

*\*Transitory/Temporary Sites*

*\*\* These are preliminary figures, not fully verified through registration*

*\*\*\*WES – Western Equatoria; CES – Central Equatoria State*

Logistical challenges related to the poor road network and the rains remain. Due to the rains, mobilisation of contractors and earth works are becoming increasingly difficult. In terms of sourcing water, while humanitarian agencies have largely resorted to water trucking, shortages of fuel are a further obstacle to service delivery. Humanitarian actors are gradually resorting to heavy duty tractors for water trucking and other transportation purposes.

Yida remains the most insecure refugee settlement in South Sudan. Efforts to encourage refugees to move to safer locations further inland have had limited success with only 3,000 refugees relocating to the two sites of Pariang and Nyeel.

A further 10 to 15,000 persons are said to be on their way to the border from within Blue Nile State.

## Upper Nile State

**Security Situation:** The situation in Maban County remained stable during the week under review.

**Contingency Planning:** Preparations are being made for the rainy season and for any epidemics or disease outbreaks. These preparations include prepositioning of relief items and scaling up of basic healthcare facilities. UNHCR is working with partners to increase the number of health facilities. A campaign of emergency immunisation of newly arrived children is being launched by MSF. Vaccination of refugees that have been in the camps much longer is also on-going.

**Water:** Sourcing water in Jammam remains a major challenge and the only solution going forward will be to continue relocating thousands of refugees from Jammam to a new site by the river bank in Melut County. While priority for transport has been given in the past week to new arrivals at Hofra due to their weak condition, movement from Jamam will resume shortly as a larger fleet of trucks has been secured. In Batil, two reliable boreholes have been cased and tested. Initial tests indicate a 7.5m<sup>3</sup>/hour and 5m<sup>3</sup>/hour respectively. More drilling is being done to find more water and maximise the capacity of the site to host the whole Hofra population.

In Hofra where 32,000 refugees are temporarily camped, the current hafir being used is expected to dry up within the next few days. A water source has been identified some 20 kilometres away from Hofra although it is expected to last only two weeks. This will assist temporarily while the new arrivals are being relocated to the Batil site.

## Unity State

**Security:** The security situation in Yida remained calm during the past week although by its very location at close proximity to a volatile border, Yida remains the most insecure refugee settlement in South Sudan. Efforts to encourage refugees to move to safer locations further inland have had limited success with only 3,000 refugees relocating to the two sites of Pariang and Nyeel. With the recent influx of large numbers of new arrivals, local communities have expressed concerns to the authorities about congestion of Yida. Discussions between refugees and the host communities are planned next week.

**Emergency Response:** WASH activities are being stepped up in Yida to cater for the large population throughout the rainy season as hygiene is a major concern. Food prepositioning continues at a high speed before roads are cut off. A measles campaign is being launched by MSF for all under-15s not previously vaccinated. In Pariang and Nyeel, preparations for the rainy season are progressing well with long houses being built in Pariang for the students and care takers. More durable shelters have been completed in Nyeel for the existing population.

**Livelihoods:** Vegetable gardening and other cultivation activities have started in both locations (Pariang and Nyeel).

**Camp Accessibility:** The rains have started and rendered access more difficult in Unity state. Air movements are increasingly the only remaining option of transportation of good and persons. UNHCR is discussing with UNHAS and UNDS for the resumption of regular flights to Yida.