

## Update on Emergency Response Operations in South Sudan Week Ending 10 November 2012

### Highlights

- **UNHCR finalizing contingency plans for likely refugee influx**
- **Access to clean water improving in all camps in Maban**
- **Biometric registration begins in Unity State; Participatory Assessment completed in Yida**

### Upper Nile State

#### **UNHCR finalizing contingency plans for likely refugee influx**

The contingency planning process regarding the expected arrival of new waves of refugees from Sudan's Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan state is nearing the final stage, as UNHCR and other humanitarian actors work with local and national authorities to set up preparedness measures.

It is projected that up to 30,000 new arrivals could enter South Sudan before the end of the year, with triggers for flight ranging from stepped up military campaigns/dry season offensive to the food shortages that are routinely cited by refugees arriving from the Nuba Mountains and Blue Nile state.

With the existing refugee settlements already stretched to capacity, the emphasis in the past few weeks has been on identifying and assessing new sites in suitable locations that are accessible by road and meet criteria such as reasonable distance from border areas, viable water sources, road access in all seasons, etc. as well as the willingness of local communities to host refugees. Discussions with local, state and national authorities are on-going.

Based on the experiences of the past year, it is envisaged to establish way stations and transit sites where high energy biscuits and drinking water will be provided. Given the propensity for disease outbreak, medical screening and vaccinations will be carried out on first contact with refugees to avert the deterioration of any pre-existing conditions. Of primary concern will be to establish from the outset the nutrition status of refugees. Relief items are being pre-positioned, medicines, vaccinations and nutrition products.

#### **Access to clean water improving in all camps in Maban**

Refugees are currently accessing more clean water in Maban County as three out of four camps in are now above international SPHERE standards of 15 liters per person per day (lpd). An average of 17lpd is available in Jamam, Gendrassa and Doro camps.

In Yusuf Batil, the situation will improve considerably this week with on-going drilling activities and the extension of a water distribution network. The newly drilled borehole will provide an average of 250,000 to 300,000 liters/day which is equivalent to an extra 6.5 to 8 lpd for a total population of 37,000 refugees.

In the coming weeks, UNHCR and WASH partners estimate that more than 17 lpd will be available and that the goal of 20 lpd will be attained by the end of November 2012. In Jamam, the water system is now stable. UNHCR is installing a submersible pump with a high yield capacity of up to 25,000 liters/hours to improve the water supply.

. With the new pump, UNHCR and Oxfam are aiming to stabilise the water supply system. An expected average of 20 lpd for a population of 15,000 refugees will be available in the coming weeks and will allow for the discontinuation of water trucking. Several additional deep boreholes will be drilled in Jamman in November to solve water shortage for the local population as well and provide for a back-up in case of failure of the main borehole in Bantikoe.

### Unity State

#### **Biometric registration begins in Unity State**

Biometric registration began this week in South Sudan. The exercise was launched in Nyeel Refugee Camp in Unity State, where it will move to Pariang then Yida in the coming weeks. Over the course of two days, the biometric team registered a

total of 827 refugees in Nyeel. The team will move to Pariang on Monday and onward to Yida to conduct the exercise immediately following the general food distribution scheduled to begin on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

For UNHCR, biometrics—in this case fingerprinting—is an important tool to quickly recognize or verify a refugee’s identity. The implications of this exercise will be far-reaching for UNHCR and all humanitarian partners on the ground: it will allow for more thorough individual case follow-up for example in the case of no show at clinics and to provide a baseline for the current accurate refugee population in each site. In such remote camps where agencies’ logistical capacity is not only stretched thin but becoming increasingly costly, accurate population figures will be critical to informed and effective planning for 2013.

Biometrics is also a way to strengthen UNHCR’s registration and day-to-day service-delivery capacity while protecting identities of refugees and fighting fraud. It will verify that each refugee is only registered once within the system, thus avoiding duplications and human error. With reliable population data in place, program implementation will therefore be enhanced as lifesaving food and relief items will be distributed efficiently to a verified population.

A mass information campaign in each site precedes the fingerprinting to ensure refugees understand the objectives and rationale behind the exercise.

Biometrics is especially important in the context of UNHCR’s current preparations to face up to a possible influx of new arrivals from South Kordofan into Unity State. With ongoing fighting across the border in Sudan, UNHCR is developing its contingency planning to ensure we can meet the growing needs. With more than 63,000 refugees in Yida, the site is becoming increasingly congested which could potentially overwhelm health and WASH facilities. Against this backdrop, Yida simply cannot face another rainy season with yet more refugees. UNHCR is therefore in the process of identifying new sites provide a new opportunity for refugees to relocate voluntarily to live in a safer environment where children can receive education.

**Participatory Assessment carried out in Yida**

This week, UNHCR and partners carried out a participatory assessment in Yida camp. Mixed teams of staff from UNHCR, Solidarites, Non Violent Peace Force, International Rescue Committee and Samaritan’s Purse participated in a half-day training and quickly began conducting focus group discussions in all bomas. Different focus groups were carried out for children, adolescents, adults and older persons.

The assessment included all tribes with equal numbers of men and women represented. Discussions were also carried out with persons with specific needs, such as members of nutrition programs and the disabled. Teams also met with members of the host community. A number of key informant interviews will be carried out this week to supplement the information gathered.

Each group dealt with particular thematic areas as relevant to the group demographic, allowing them time to raise any additional issues they felt were important at the end of each group. Thematic areas included safety and security, education, child protection, SGBV, health and nutrition, water and sanitation, mental health, reproductive health, livelihoods and relocation. A detailed report on the findings of the assessment will be finalized later in the week.

**Statistics**

Upper Nile State: 110,895		Unity State: 64,773	
Yusuf Batil	37,196	Nyeel	963
Doro	43,740	Pariang	1,223
Jamam	15,444	Yida	62,587
Gendrassa	14,515		

**Partners:**  
ACROSS; ACTED; CARE; Danish Refugee Council (DRC); Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); GOAL; GIZ; IBIS; International Rescue Committee (IRC); International Organization for Migration (IOM); INTERSOS; MEDAIR; MSF-Belgium; MSF-France; Non-Violence Peace Force (NVPF); Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC); OXFAM; Relief International; Samaritan’s Purse; Save the Children Fund; UNICEF; World Food Programme (WFP); World Health Organization (WHO); World Relief; World Vision International.