

## BACKGROUND

Close to 900,000 people have been displaced (76% internally) as a result of deadly clashes that broke out in Juba on 15 December between rival factions of the SPLA, and evolved into a full-scale war affecting people in seven out of South Sudan's ten states.

UNHCR is participating in the IDP response effort through the inter-agency collaborative Cluster Approach under the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator.

On 11 February, the UN Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs, Ms. Valerie Amos, declared a Level 3 Humanitarian System-Wide Emergency Response for South Sudan .

UNHCR continues to support over 232,000 refugees inside South Sudan.

## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

- IGAD Special Envoys expressed serious concerns over reports of ongoing clashes in various locations across Upper Nile, Jonglei, Warrap and Unity states, and deplored the breach of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement. *[IGAD Press Release, 19 February 2014]*
- With the escalation in violence and rumours of impending conflict in oilfield areas in Unity and Upper Nile states, UNHCR anticipates increased refugee outflows towards Ethiopia and Sudan which have received over 56,000 and 35,000 new arrivals respectively since the start of the conflict. Refugee outflows into neighbouring countries have passed the 180,000 mark.
- Humanitarian partners continued to provide assistance to 327,300 of the 710,600 people displaced by the crisis. Factors challenging scaling up include insecurity, lack of access in some areas and inadequate funding. *[OCHA Humanitarian Update no. 22]*
- While refugee hosting areas inside South Sudan in Unity and Upper Nile states have remain largely conflict-free, UNHCR is deeply concerned about activities of armed state and non-state actors in refugee locations.
- UNHCR also has grave concern about threats to and targeting of assets, including convoys, which are vital to humanitarian operations. In particular, the pre-positioning of food and relief



**Malakal town. RIGHT: Scenes of smoking houses became commonplace as did sighting of fresh corpses, amid reports of and targeted killings, torture and harassment of civilians. LEFT: Civilians continued to flee towards the UNMISS base, Rom and Melut, leaving Malakal largely deserted. [Photo: UNHCR/P.Kozelets]**

supplies for refugees and IDPs prior to the rainy season may necessitate costly airlifts, if problems with ground access persist. Discussions between UNHCR and WFP are on-going in this regard.

- Significantly, in a notice to all State Police Commissioners dated 19 February, the South Sudan Inspector General of Police instructed that road blocks should be minimized and that there should be no collection of fees from Relief, Humanitarian and UN vehicles.

## SECURITY

### Upper Nile State

- In Malakal, the situation has remained tense and volatile amid rumours of an impending counter-attack by pro-government forces after anti-government forces took control of the town on 18 February.
- Increasing insecurity prompted the temporary reduction of UNHCR staff in Malakal. On the recommendation of UNDSS, six out of 13 staff were evacuated on 23 February, with only critical personnel remaining to continue essential protection and assistance activities (about 90 UN and INGO staff were airlifted from Malakal on that date). Remaining staff are largely confined to the UNMISS Log Base while UNDSS exceptionally authorises certain humanitarian agencies to provide essential services access the town under Force Protection.
- The impact on civilians is evidenced by corpses strewn in the streets, houses razed to the ground, IDPs with burn wounds, allegations of abduction and rape, and of the disappearance of children from the UNMISS PoC Area. There are also unconfirmed reports of ethnic-based execution of patients admitted at Malakal Teaching Hospital.
- Within the UNMISS PoC Area, the profile of IDPs changed as persons associated ethnically with anti-government forces left—presumably for areas they consider to be safe—while persons from other ethnic groups entered the PoC Area, numbering an estimated 3,000 over the last four days.
- Near Maban County, pro-government forces reportedly repulsed three consecutive attacks by anti-government forces protecting the road to oil fields in Adar and Paloich.

## POPULATIONS OF CONCERN

### DISPLACED POPULATIONS IN SOUTH SUDAN

| State                     | IDPs <sup>1/</sup> | Refugees <sup>2/</sup> |
|---------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Abyei Administrative Area | 2,600              |                        |
| Central Equatoria         | 101,100            | 17,518                 |
| Eastern Equatoria         | 65,800             |                        |
| Jonglei                   | 129,300            | 3,066                  |
| Lakes                     | 92,000             |                        |
| Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal   | 1,200              |                        |
| Unity                     | 182,000            | 78,880                 |
| Upper Nile                | 122,800            | 125,392                |
| Warrap                    | 13,100             |                        |
| Western Bahr-el-Ghazal    | 700                |                        |
| Western Equatoria         |                    | 8,508                  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>              | <b>710,600</b>     | <b>233,364</b>         |

<sup>1/</sup> Source: OCHA South Sudan Crisis situation report no. 22 (24 Feb 2014)

<sup>2/</sup> Source: UNHCR Regional Web Portal (26 Feb 2014) [<http://data.unhcr.org/SouthSudan/regional.php>]

### DISPLACED SEEKING PROTECTION IN UNMISS “PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS” (POC) SITES<sup>3/</sup>

| STATE             | LOCATION        | POPULATION    |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Central Equatoria | Juba (Tomping)  | 27,580        |
|                   | Juba (UN House) | 15,744        |
| Jonglei           | Bor             | 4,891         |
| Lakes             | Rumbek          | 100           |
| Upper Nile        | Malakal         | 21,568        |
|                   | Melut           | 1,178         |
| Unity             | Pariang         | 59            |
|                   | Bentiu          | 4,523         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>      |                 | <b>75,643</b> |

<sup>3/</sup> Source: UNMISS Update, 26 February 2014

### REFUGEES IN SOUTH SUDAN (BY NATIONALITY)

|                              |                |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Ethiopia                     | 5,890          |
| Democratic Republic of Congo | 13,970         |
| Central African Republic     | 1,632          |
| Sudan <sup>4/</sup>          | 211,872        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                 | <b>233,364</b> |

<sup>4/</sup> Source: UNHCR Regional Web Portal

- In Maban County, a rub hall in Gentil Hospital in Yusuf Batil camp was broken into and food items stolen. The perpetrators were not apprehended.

### Central Equatoria State

- On 24 February, a convoy carrying relief items Unity State was shot at by unknown persons about 40km from Juba. A truck bearing UNHCR registration plates and loaded with plastic sheets and sleeping mats had three bullets shatter the windscreen and puncture the radiator. No-one was injured and the convoy was able to continue to a safer place for assessment of damage. It is said that there were three shooters in civilian clothing.

### Unity State (Pariang County)

- Approximately 40 Kilometers from Mayom three commercial trucks that had delivered fuel to UNHCR in Unity State were involved in an incident reported as an ambush. Attackers shot at them and threw grenades which caused the lead truck to burn. The second and third trucks managed to turn around and avoid harm. The two trucks later joined another convoy with armed escort, and headed back in the original direction. At the ambush site, they found the first truck had been burnt to a shell. Its occupants are presumed dead.

## Refugee schools receive text books

Refugee children are finally precious textbooks. They were facing a desperate situation, unable to receive quality education with serious negative consequences for their protection. In one camp, refugee leaders cited the lack of textbooks as one of the reasons for backing strike action to have schools close down as their children “..only go to school to sing and play.”

In October last year, through the good offices of the Commission for Refugee Affairs, the Ministry of Education authorized UNHCR to print textbooks for refugee schools in South Sudan. 12,350 of the initial 57,850 textbooks that were ordered and 3,200 teachers’ guides have been printed and dispatched to refugee schools in Central Equatoria, Western Equatoria, Unity and Upper Nile states .

The crisis that erupted in Juba on 14 December affected the textbook production as employees of the printing house were all foreigners who fled the country. Printing resumed in February 2014 thus more books should be available books for distribution by the end of the month.

## SUDANESE REFUGEES IN SOUTH SUDAN

|                         | CAMP/SETTLEMENT  | 17-23 FEB      |
|-------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| UNITY STATE             | Ajuong Thok      | 8,318          |
|                         | Yida             | 70,562         |
|                         | <b>Sub-total</b> | <b>78,880</b>  |
| UPPER NILE STATE        | Doro             | 47,963         |
|                         | Gendrassa        | 17,462         |
|                         | Kaya             | 19,138         |
|                         | Yusuf Batil      | 39,505         |
|                         | Lelo             | 956            |
|                         | <b>Sub-total</b> | <b>125,024</b> |
| CENTRAL EQUATORIA STATE | Juba (urban)     | 5,769          |
|                         | Yei (urban)      | 1,824          |
|                         | <b>Sub-total</b> | <b>7,593</b>   |
| WESTERN EQUATORIA       |                  | 375            |
|                         | <b>TOTAL</b>     | <b>211,871</b> |

- Meanwhile, incidents of UN/NGO harassment are on the rise. In Jamjang near Ajuong Thok, SPLA soldiers reportedly entered an NGO compound and took fuel by force. In Pariang town, SSNPS and armed youth commandeered a UNHCR/AAHI truck at a road block demanding to be ferried to an unknown destination in the direction of the contested border area of Heglig. The driver persuaded them to return to fuel the truck in Pariang town, where they were convinced to disembark.

## REFUGEE OPERATIONS

- The Minister for Interior & Wildlife Conservation of the Republic of South Sudan has announced the appointment of (state-level) Assistant Commissioners for Refugee Affairs in the main refugee-hosting states of Central Equatoria, Western Equatoria, Unity and Upper Nile.

### Operational Updates

#### Upper Nile State

- The **presence of armed elements** within the Maban refugee camps and activities relating to mobilisation, recruitments and return of

deserters continue to be cause for grave concern. At camp level, refugee leaders have been engaged to identify concrete ways to address *inter alia* problems related to child recruitment, early marriage, the school drop-out rate and domestic violence.

- Incidents of **conflict between host and refugee communities** over livestock and natural resources are on the increase. A shoot-out between refugees from Gendrassa camp and locals over the alleged theft of refugee livestock culminated in the demise of one refugee and injury to four others. Further escalation of the conflict was prevented by the police. Maban County Commissioner has undertaken to mediate a solution between the two communities
- 25 **new arrivals** from Wadaga and Tamfona in Sudan's Blue Nile state were screened and registered in Kaya camp. They comprise mainly women (including elderly women) and young children. Some appeared malnourished. Those from Tamfona cited fighting in their villages which has included ground attacks and aerial bombardment. Those from Wadaka said they fled because of hunger and a desire to reunite with relatives who fled Blue Nile state in 2011
- A nutrition team comprising UNICEF, MedAir and UNHCR visited three house-holds whose children have **severe cases of kwashiorkor** in Yusuf Batil camp. They observed, among other harmful practices, that children with kwashiorkor symptoms were not being fed pulses. They gave advice to the families on nutritious food practices and instructed Community Nutrition Volunteers to ensure participation of the children's caregivers in Mother Support Groups sessions.

## Unity State

### Yida

- The **presence of armed state and non-state actors** both in Yida and Ajuong Thok remains a challenge. In Ajuong Thok isolated cases of armed elements threatening the refugee community have been reported. Efforts by UNHCR and the Commission for Refugee Affairs to engage local government leadership on this matter have not yielded meaningful results.
- UNHCR reached an agreement with members of the **Refugee Council** in Yida to resume weekly meetings with refugee Boma sheiks. This signals an improvement in relations with humanitarian

actors after a break of more than three months. All agencies are expected to participate in these Saturday meetings; the first is scheduled to take place on 1 March.

- It has been agreed that with effect from March IRC will conduct 100% **protection monitoring** interviews. Data collection and analysis will be supported by UNHCR. The monthly target of 120 interviews in Yida and 100 in Ajuong Thok will be maintained.
- UNHCR and IRC are creating awareness in the refugee community that **all services provided are free of charge**. Community Watch Teams and other refugee leaders in Yida are reportedly charging refugees 5SSP for referral slips to service actors like UNHCR for card replacement, IRC for NFI support, etc. The Protection team will engage the refugee leadership on this matter.
- The **incidence of burning houses** in Yida is increasing; all cases involve children cooking or playing with fire. UNHCR is establishing fire control/prevention mechanisms; Child Protection actors are utilizing community structures like Child Protection committees to raise awareness in the community. Meanwhile, 31 families (143 individuals) whose houses were burnt received NFI packages. Ration cards were replaced for those families whose cards were burnt along with other property.

### Ajuong Thok

- Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA) rolled out its two-day **measles campaign** in Napata and Merowe primary schools for students between 6-15 years. Teachers worked with AHA health teams to sensitize the community and register students. All eligible children were vaccinated.
- **Resumption services for GBV Survivors**: door-to-door information dissemination is continuing with 11 blocks already covered. As part of a *Risk Identification Assessment* views of 49 women and 44 adolescent girls were collected about risky places, fears and behaviours within the camp. Service mapping formed part of the risk assessment. Major fears included massive movement of non-uniformed armed individuals within and around the camp. This is worrying communities that reside along the main road. Girls indicated they fear going to school early because they can easily be attacked.

- 120 women and girls residing in blocks 16 to 18 received **dignity kits**. They indicated that violence in the community still remains high as the social settings that used to protect them have broken down during the internal conflict that has beset the country. They also indicated that the rate of early pregnancy in Ajuong Thok camp is alarming.

## IDP RESPONSE

### Protection Cluster

- The Protection Cluster priorities in South Sudan continue to include efforts to promote understanding of the current conflict which continues to result in large numbers of civilian deaths/casualties and to precipitate displacement.
- The Protection and CCCM Clusters are working to support improved information sharing in UNMISS Tomping (Central Equatoria) through community radio.

### Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

- Contingency planning for the rainy season is a key priority for the cluster, which is collaborating with the Emergency Shelter & NFI, and WASH clusters as well as UNMISS to maximize use of technical experts to improve conditions in IDP sites to reduce the risk of water borne diseases and other hazards associated with the rainy season.
- Over-congestion continues to be a key concern in IDP sites, with increasing needs for site planning support. Where alternative sites or plans for site improvement are identified, there is a need to support partners to implement in preparation for the rainy season. CCCM cluster is coordinating with the Ministry of Gender, Child, Social Welfare, Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management and the RRC to identify ways for the Government to can support decongestion efforts where appropriate.

### Central Equatoria State

- CCCM capacity building training, implemented by NRC with support of the Global CCCM cluster, was held in Juba last week with 30 participants from NGOs, UN agencies, UNMISS, and the IDP community. The training was well-received and

will be replicated in other parts of South Sudan including for the authorities.

### Eastern Equatoria State

- The state-level CCCM cluster coordinator had a series of meetings with local authorities, UN and NGO partners on the situation of IDPs in Nimule. The discussed *inter alia* contingency planning for the upcoming raining season. The cluster coordinator conducted a visit with UNOCHA in Torit to a site near Nimule where IDPs have self-settled.

### Lakes State

- Humanitarian response in islands and swamp areas across Awerial is a main challenge given the lack of humanitarian agencies boats to access the islands.

### Unity State

- On 26 February, the state-level CCCM cluster coordinator arrived in Bentiu. The UNMISS PoC Area—which is already very congested—needs to prepare for anticipated flooding during the upcoming rainy season as well as a potential new influx of new arrivals. Stakeholders (authorities, UNMISS, site managing agency, UNHCR) are in discussion to expedite decongestion.

### Upper Nile State

- Site planning is particularly challenging in Malakal, where the new POC location is on higher ground and requires equipment for filling that UNMISS is attempting to bring from Juba. The new site has the capacity to accommodate 5,800 IDPs (30m<sup>2</sup> per person), far less than the planned requirement for 20,000. Insecurity in the area will further increase the obstacles, limiting capacity and resources to adequately prepare for the rainy season.

### Emergency Shelter & Non Food Items

- Since the onset of the refugee emergency, UNHCR has released non-food items (NFIs) for some 100,000 persons/25,000 families. To date, some 65,000 persons/16,250 families have benefitted as follows:
  - **Central Equatoria state: Yei town**—560 IDPs; **Juba**—880 IDPs in settlements outside UNMISS PoC areas; 800 IDPs who sought sanctuary in Gorom refugee settlement; 12,000 IDPs at UNMISS Tomping PoC Area.

- **Eastern Equatoria state:** *Pre-positioned for 36,000. Nimule*—distributed by MSF to 32,000 IDPs .
- **Unity state:** *Pre-positioned for 10,000.* Distributed to 3,200 IDPs in **Bentiu** UNMISS PoC Area
- **Upper Nile state:** *NFI pre-positioned in Malakal for 10,000.* Distributed to 4,000 persons (1,000 families) within and outside Malakal UNMIS PoC Areas. In Maban County (refugee-hosting area), NFI were distributed to 3,200 IDPs in Beneshawa and Nurashine.
- **Lakes state:** Distributed to 400 IDPs. In Awerial County pre-positioned for 16,000 persons.
- Additionally, NFIs for 2,000 households were pre-positioned for Jonglei, Unity, and Central Equatoria (Katagiri) states.

## Regional Updates

### Eastern Equatoria State

- UNHCR’s Deputy Representative visited Eastern Equatoria and held discussions with State Government authorities, UN partners and NGOs in addition to visiting IDP sites in Magwi and Torit Counties.
- Eastern Equatoria is a major destination for displaced persons, currently estimated by State authorities to number over 73,300. The IDP situation in the State is complex, requiring multi-faceted responses including a durable solutions orientation for persons who have returned from conflict-affected areas to their ancestral lands.
- The IDP population also comprises persons who have opted to remain inside South Sudan (rather than flee across the border into Kenya and Uganda), and settled among “old” IDPs with whom they have ethnic ties. Cultural differences are a challenge to overcome, with IDPs pastoral ways pitched against those of sedentary indigenous communities with concerns about herds of cattle destroying farmlands.
- In a random intention survey, IDPs indicated they are monitoring the situation of their places of origin, and will go back to their homes once the situation improves . Some vulnerable IDPs, like female-headed household, said that they do not wish to return to their homes (especially Bor) as the situation is unpredictable. Most of IDPs stated

that they want to remain in South Sudan rather than become refugees again.

### Unity State (Pariang County)

- Distribution of NFIs to IDPs is continuing alongside provision of food by WFP. 4,080 IDPs have been served. The inter-agency assessment in January verified an estimated 20,000 IDPs in the County.
- IDPs in Ajuong Thok camp have started to relocate after they were informed that assistance would only be provided to them in Jamjang (outside the refugee camp). An estimated 700 IDPs had taken up residence in Ajuong Thok camp.

### Upper Nile State

- UNHCR along other humanitarian actors managed to reach the IDPs residing in Christ the King and Malakal Teaching Hospital to assess humanitarian needs. About 1,000 individuals were observed at Christ the King Church with no imminent threats. There were however cases including separated and unaccompanied children. Most of the IDPs seemed confident about continuing to stay at the Church in safety. Humanitarian assistance will be delivered to them in the coming days.

## FUNDING

| DONOR  | USD       |
|--------|-----------|
| CERF   | 754,320   |
| Canada | 895,255   |
| Japan  | 6,800,000 |

- The **Government of Canada** announced a contribution of CAD 1,000,000 (USD 895,255) towards the South Sudan Crisis—UNHCR Emergency Appeal 2014, to benefit vulnerable Sudanese refugees and South Sudanese internally displaced persons.
- The **Government of Japan** announced a contribution of USD 6.8 million for UNHCR’s refugee programmes in South Sudan, part of a contribution of USD 66.8 million for the execution of Humanitarian Assistance for African Countries.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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**FOR REFUGEE INFORMATION ON THE SOUTH SUDAN SITUATION, VISIT**  
<http://data.unhcr.org/SouthSudan/regional.php>

