

Reflections on Women's Day

In displacement, in the bush and in urban areas, women play the pivotal role of caregiver, creating a semblance of domestic stability. They make living spaces, forage for food, fetch firewood and water, cook, and care for children, the sick, the elderly. The list is endless...

During the current IDP crisis in South Sudan, women and girls carrying out these roles face harassment and sexual violence along roads, in markets, at the river's edge and wherever there are armed men. Rape and sexual violence are common. In latrines and bathing spaces, women are sexually harassed with what they call "black snakes".

It is humiliating.
It erodes their dignity.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

- UNHCR is deeply concerned about threats to the nutrition status of refugees if food supplies are not delivered to Maban County urgently. Other affected populations in Upper Nile state include internally displaced persons. Violent clashes in Malakal and other strategic river and road transport towns this year have made pre-positioning impossible.
- WFP has reported that insecurity and access challenges along critical logistics corridors from Ethiopia into Jonglei and Upper Nile state are impacting its ability to reach refugees and IDPs that require urgent assistance in the region. Where feasible, airlifts from Juba are ongoing to support these operations. [*South Sudan Situation Report #18, 6 March*]
- The refugee population in Ajuong Thok passed the 9,000 mark.

In Pariang County, Unity state, humanitarian partners distributed food and domestic items to more than 11,000 IDPs in Bui, Nyeel, Panlok and Pariang town with the support of local authorities including RRC and SSPS. UNHCR provided plastic sheets, sleeping mats, soap, buckets, blankets, kitchen sets, mosquito nets and sanitary cloths for women and girls of child-bearing age. WFP and Samaritans Purse distributed 8.77 MT of food including lentils, vegetable oil and salt. AHA vaccinated children for measles (1,525), polio (502) and Vitamin A (674). AAHI provided a bus to transport 50 volunteers, as well four trucks to transport food and relief items from warehouses to distribution centres. [Photo: UNHCR/G.Anayama]



REFUGEE OPERATIONS

Upper Nile State

Challenges with delivery of relief items

- Ground routes to Maban County through Malakal, Renk, Palouch (including the airstrip) and Melut as well as Gambella (Ethiopia) were affected by rain showers, heightening uncertainty about prospects of prepositioning relief items ahead of the rainy season.
- While Maban County has not been directly impacted by the war, general insecurity and border restrictions along supply corridors have prevented delivery of relief items since the beginning of the year. UNHCR, WFP and other partners normally preposition food and other relief items during the first quarter of the year in preparation for the rainy season.

Food shortages

- UNHCR is highlighting deep concerns that the health and nutrition status of refugees in Maban County will be severely compromised unless food is delivered immediately.
- At greatest risk is about one-third of the refugee population comprising children under five years of age, pregnant and lactating women, elderly and disabled persons and persons who are chronically ill. As the rains start vulnerability to water-borne diseases, malaria and respiratory tract infection will increase.
- Refugees last received full rations in February and may only access partial food rations this month. A partial distribution of pulses (70 g/p/d) and oil began across all camps during the past week. The ration provides only around 24% (500 Kcal /p/d)

SUDANESE REFUGEES IN UNITY AND UPPER NILE

		CAMP	09 MAR
UNITY STATE	Pariang County	Ajuong Thok	9,149 ^{1/}
		Yida	70,484 ^{2/}
		Sub-total	79,633
UPPER NILE STATE	Maban County	Doro	47,988
		Gendrassa	17,507
		Kaya	19,161
		Yusuf Batil	39,544
		Lelo	956
		Sub-total	125,156
		TOTAL	204,789

Source: UNHCR Regional Web Portal (10 Mar 2014)

[<http://data.unhcr.org/SouthSudan/regional.php>]

Changes during week of 3-9 March:

^{1/} Ajuong Thok: 200 new registrations; 9 new-borns; 322 relocations from Yida

^{2/} Yida: 108 new registrations; 56 new-borns

of the recommended daily energy intake (2100 Kcal/p/d). No cereals or salt have yet been delivered to Maban. It is the dry season, the traditional hunger gap, when refugees are unable to grow food to supplement the WFP rations.

- In recent weeks, there have been several cases of kwashiorkor among very young children in the refugee camps, which is symptomatic of protein deficiency that can be caused by illness.
- Food shortages could moreover lead to conflict between refugees and host communities foraging for wild fruits and vegetables. Already, there are

REFUGEES IN SOUTH SUDAN (BY NATIONALITY) AND LOCATION

LOCATION	Central Equatoria	Jonglei	Unity	Upper Nile	Western Equatoria	TOTAL
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN						
• Central African Republic	-	-	-	-	1,634	1,634
• Democratic Republic of Congo	7,480	-	-	-	6,584	14,064
• Ethiopia	2,505	3,066	-	481	-	6,052
• Sudan	7,591	-	79,633	125,156	375	212,554
TOTAL	17,576	3,066	79,633	125,637	8,593	234,505

Source: UNHCR Regional Web Portal (10 Mar 2014) [<http://data.unhcr.org/SouthSudan/regional.php>]

tensions over grazing lands and open water sources.

Refugees and host communities clash

- The South Sudan Commissioner for Refugee Affairs has tasked his Deputy to lead the effort to promote peaceful coexistence in Maban County following clashes on 3 March in which two refugees were killed. No deaths were reported among the local population.
- Refugees from Yusuf Batil camp clashed with members of the host community village of Kongor on Monday, 3 March. At least 20 homes in Kongor were burnt and 26 refugee tents pulled down.
- Up to 8,000 refugees who fled Yusuf Batil returned by mid-week after receiving assurances of protection by local authorities. About 100 security personnel have been deployed along a one-kilometer stretch between Kongor and Yusuf Batil camp. Tensions between refugee and host communities have been simmering over competition for natural resources.

Unity State

- The population of refugees in Ajuong Thok has passed the 9,000 mark. If the February trends continue (1,472 refugees were relocated from Yida), Ajuong Thok could reach its full capacity of 20,000 by the end of the year. Superior quality of services, particularly primary and secondary education, are the main pull factors for relocation to Ajuong Thok.

Health

UNHCR acknowledges the following health partner and stakeholder contributions in Pariang County: Ministry of Health, WHO, UNICEF, AHA, CARE, IRC, MSF-F, SI, and SP.

- 40 suspected measles cases were identified in week 09 (24 Feb-02 Mar 2014) [compared to 56 suspected cases in week 08]. As of 02 March, 201 (59% male) cumulative suspected cases were registered at the MSF clinic in Yida. 46% are under five years of age; 27% are between 5 and 15 years; and 28% are above 15 years of age. 188 are refugees, 11 are South Sudanese, and 2 are Darfurians. No death has been registered to-date.
- **Response activities:** MSF (in collaboration with MOH/UNICEF/WHO/UNHCR) completed a mass measles vaccination campaign in Yida. A similar

INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT STATISTICS

State	
Abyei Administrative Area	2,600
Central Equatoria	101,100
Eastern Equatoria	65,800
Jonglei	142,600
Lakes	76,400
Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal	1,200
Unity	186,000
Upper Nile	116,300
Warrap	13,100
Western Bahr-el-Ghazal	700
Western Equatoria	0
TOTAL	705,800

Source: OCHA South Sudan Crisis Situation Report (6 Mar 2014).

DISPLACED SEEKING PROTECTION IN UNMISS "PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS" (POC) SITES

STATE	LOCATION	POPULATION
Central Equatoria	Juba (Tompson)	27,580
	Juba (UN House)	15,744
Jonglei	Bor	4,891
Lakes	Rumbek	91
Upper Nile	Malakal	21,568
	Melut	1,249
Unity	Pariang	70
	Bentiu	5,462
TOTAL		76,655

Source: UNMISS Update, 10 March 2014

SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEES IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

COUNTRY OF ASYLUM	10 MARCH
Ethiopia	79,338
Kenya	25,099
Sudan	42,011
Uganda	79,338
TOTAL	215,904

Source: UNHCR Country Offices, 11 March 2014

campaign was completed in Ajuong Thok camp by AHA wherein 3,253 children between 6 months and 15 years were vaccinated. AHA vaccinated children in surrounding host and IDP communities. Other response activities include isolation of suspected cases, case management, staff orientation on case definition and management; and strengthening community awareness and surveillance through community health workers.

Nutrition

- Nutrition trends show that the acute malnutrition situation in both Ajuong Thok and Yida is fairly stable. MUAC screening for children aged 6-59 months in Yida showed GAM of 2.7% and SAM of 0.2%, far below the 15% emergency threshold of GAM or 10% with aggravating factors. No oedema cases were found during the screening. In Ajuong Thok, the MAM programme had 13 new admissions and a 100% cure rate. The OTP had zero admissions.
- Food basket monitoring in Ajuong Thok showed that households received 97% of the planned energy requirements. The report showed under-scooping of sorghum and over-scooping of oil and salt. WFP and Samaritan's purse are making efforts to ensure accurate scooping of commodities.
- Integration of nutrition into the Out Patient Department has started in the Ajuong Thok health facility. The first step is to have all children visiting the OPD screened for malnutrition. Three children with malnutrition requiring in-patient management in the stabilisation centre were identified during the week (two from the host community).

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- Water production and service delivery are satisfactory in both Ajuong Thok and Yida. Yida has satisfied the basic SPHERE standard indicator of 15 litres per person per day. The water supply in Ajuong Thok has consistently been maintained above the UNHCR standard of 20l/p/d.
- In Yida, SP operates 14 boreholes while MSF manages one that serves both a hospital and a community water point. In Ajuong Thok, all four boreholes are operational.
- Latrine construction and hygiene promotion are on-going in Yida, with SP mobilizing supervisors and community hygiene volunteers to carry out the activities.

IDP RESPONSE

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

Protection Cluster

- The Protection Cluster provided detailed input to the Humanitarian Coordinator in conjunction with a meeting of the Experts Group at some point in March.
- The Protection Cluster provided guidance to the inter-cluster working group on the use of biometrics with the current IDP populations in the POC bases in Juba. The issue was discussed at length at the weekly Cluster meeting and key recommendations included avoiding photographs, ensuring the fingerprint is linked to a number not a name, ensuring significant data protection protocols and ensuring that the biometric is used only for issues related to provision of assistance and not for other purposes such as entry/exit.
- Protection cluster partners joined a mission to Nassir to provide protection support and mainstreaming to the FSL Cluster food distribution.
- Owing *inter alia* to the surprise arrival of hundreds of additional Eritreans from outside the POC Areas to the "registration" related to Temporary Protection (as well as the fighting on 5 March), the process was suspended until security improved. The Commission for Refugees Affairs requested that the registration be limited to those actually living in the POC Areas.

FUNDING

2014 EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS

DONOR	USD
CERF	754,320
Canada	895,255
Japan	6,800,000
Switzerland	842,696

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>

