

SOUTH SUDAN

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE 1/2015


2 to 11 January 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

- South Sudan warring parties agree in Khartoum on a five point plan proposed by the Chinese Government to support the ongoing IGAD peace talks.
- The outflow of South Sudanese to Uganda through the Nimule border (Eastern Equatoria State) continued on a small scale.
- Returning refugees continue to be registered in Bor town; a total of 91 HHs registered by RRC who are reported to have come from Uganda and Kenya during the reporting period.

Population of concern since 15 Dec. (as at 31 December 2014)

A total of **1,752,920** people of concern

Refugees in South Sudan  248,152

IDPs since 15 December  1,504,768

248,152

Registered refugees in South Sudan as of 31/12/2014

15,198

Returnees (2,737 HHs) from Uganda in Kajo Keji.

201,164

Total number of crisis-displaced persons who have returned in 16 locations.

102,296

IDPs are living in PoC area – 8 locations (OCHA; 31/12/2014).

1,252,356

IDPs living outside of UN Bases

236,922

Total host community caseload in 21 locations.

69,859

School children and youth (pre-primary and secondary levels) benefited from more learning spaces leading to increased access to education.

81 protection cases related to SGBV identified in Melut collective centres

Best Interest Assessments (BIA) were complete for 15 separated Children (7 male & 8 female) in Ajoung Thok camp.

437,867,981 USD

Requested for the operation

Gap
73.2%



Funded
26.8%

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

- The general security in the country has remained calm as compared to mid December 2013 when conflict erupted. The situation in Unity State, in particular Pariang County has remained relatively calm; with no significant incidents to report. However, shelling in Bentiu and along Guit road over the last few days and movement of government forces towards the north to the Unity Oil fields was observed during the week. The cessation of hostilities agreement continues to be violated despite rising pressure from the international community and regional leaders to impose targeted sanctions should the parties fail to reach a negotiated settlement.
- The South Sudan warring parties attended a one-day consultative meeting held in the Sudanese capital, Khartoum. The meeting was initiated by the Chinese Government in support of the ongoing IGAD peace process, and implored the parties to agree on a five point plan aimed at resolving the current political impasse in the country. At a briefing on arrival in Juba, the Foreign Minister indicated the parties to the conflict had agreed on the five point deal.

Protection

Refugee Response:

- During the reporting period, there was a 114% increase in the number of new arrivals in Yida compared to the previous week. Most of the new arrivals come from Kaunda, Heban and Umdoreen and are arriving as families (25% increase compared to the previous week). The number of single men has been declining as now all family members prefer to flee for safety to Yida from aerial bombardment by SAF in South Khordofan; 70% of the new arrivals are women and children, 77% of the new arrivals are willing to relocate to Ajoung Thok refugee camp.

Child Protection

- A total of 17 vulnerable children (9 male & 8 female) identified during a home visit conducted in Yida settlement, were supported with used clothes by Non-Violent Peace Force (NP); 3 boys who were suspected to have sexually assaulted some young girls in the community were arrested by refugee Community Watch Team for three hours on Wednesday 7th January 2015 in Yida settlement. However, after investigation, they were later released by community police.

SGBV

- IRC WPE conducted 3 days refresher training for community outreach volunteers of whom 10 (5 male and 5 female) benefitted from the training in Ajoung Thok. The training was designed to strengthen the skills and knowledge of outreach volunteers on gender based violence related concept so as to deliver appropriate and quality messages during awareness campaign as well as case management of GBV.

IDP Response:

- In **Bentiu (Unity State)**: it has been noted that the rate of violence among the Youth in the PoC sites had reduced, especially after a playground had been identified for them to participate together in different activities. UNHCR and Non Violent Peace Force (NP) are to resume discussions with various youth groups in order to once again reaffirm their commitment to engaging into productive and recreational activities in a peaceful manner instead of resorting to violence.
- **Melut (Upper Nile State)**: The County Commissioner of Melt has expressed concerns on the security situation in the county. There are potential threats from neighbouring counties with reports of opposition forces coming from Buth (which is known as training ground for their forces). The Commissioner requested IGAD to strengthen their capacity in terms of reporting mechanisms, check with his office on development of the opposition movements, and advised the humanitarian agencies to obtain security updates from local authorities when planning missions outside Melut.
- **Malakal (Upper Nile State)**: A needs assessment of some 250-350 IDPs from Khorfulus, Jonglei State, was jointly conducted by UNHCR, UNICEF, OCHA, WFP and UNFPA in Malakal town. Their immediate needs are food, NFIs and

shelter preferably in the PoC site. While WFP is willing to provide temporary food assistance for 15 days ration, consultations are still ongoing among agencies adapting a registration strategy and the option of transferring them to the PoC site. DRC has reported that the current number of IDPs in the PoC site (17,478 individuals) already exceeded its capacity. The above mentioned group of IDPs from Khorfulus and other locations in Malakal are requesting registration and transfer to the PoC site.

- **Bor/Mingkaman (Jonglei/Lakes States):** From 5 to 8 January 2015, a total of 91 HHs/500 INDs returning from Kenya (4 HHs) and Uganda (87 HHs) were registered at the Bor Dock by RRC Bor County – a significant increase in the number of refugee returnees particularly from Uganda was noted during the festival season. Meanwhile IDP returnees from Mingkaman and other locations within the country were 72 HHs/305 INDs in total, indicating a significant decrease which could possibly be attributed to food distribution and biometric registration planned to be carried out at the IDP settlement in Mingkaman. The reluctance of IDPs to return to Bor is due to the discontinuation of food in Bor and preference to stay in Mingkaman as food distribution continues on a regular basis. GFD started in Mingkaman on 7th January (although with pulses due to shortage in the country) and plans are underway for implementation of IOM biometric registration and introduction/distribution of WFP e-cards during the registration exercise.
- **Rumbek (Lakes State):** Inter-communal fighting is a regular phenomenon in Lakes State, with a recent fight between Pachong and Panawach clans in Pachong village in Rumbek East County, which reportedly resulted in the death 16 people (including 6 policemen and soldiers while trying to separate the fighting parties). An unspecified number of civilians have been displaced from Rumbek East County to Wullu County following these clashes, however, humanitarian agencies do not yet have access to the affected populations/areas due to movement restriction to Rumbek East County. Meanwhile, RRC and OCHA are following up with the authorities on the ground to confirm the areas of displacement and the number of IDPs.
- **Juba (Central Equatoria State):** IOM carried out verification of registered IDPs and registration of new arrivals in PoC3 of UN House. During the exercise, UNHCR conducted rapid protection interviews with approximately 20 new arrivals (all Nuer) returning mostly from Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya: some cited physical abuses and arbitrary/random arrest/detention by the Kenyan police following the fight among refugees in late October 2014 as their main reason for leaving the camp while others mentioned lack of food assistance and livelihood opportunities in the camp. All of the returnees reported having had to pay some money to the Kenyan police for unknown reasons at a checkpoint after Kakuma in order to proceed to Lockichokio/Nadapal, which needs to be verified by UNHCR Kakuma.
- **Wau (Western Bahr el Ghazal State):** On 8th January 2015, UNHCR as the Protection Cluster lead and RRC organized a joint inter-agency mission to the Eastern Bank new site where a total of 285 IDP HHs/445 INDs had relocated to the land previously allocated by the State Government.
- A community-based organization called Women Development Group (WDG) has been identified by UNHCR to engage in psychosocial support to IDPs at the UNMISS PoC site in Wau as this has been identified as a significant gap amongst others that needs to be addressed urgently. An approval of a concept note submitted is awaited from RO Juba.
- **Bor (Jonglei State):** The Commissioner of Jebel Boma County of Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA) informed the humanitarian community about continuing arrival of returnees to the county from within South Sudan as well as from the neighbouring countries of Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia and reportedly recorded a total of 120 HHs/613 INDs to date. The commissioner requested for humanitarian assistance to these returnee populations.
- Firewood/Charcoal is a major challenge particularly for IDP women inside the PoC site as IOM has no funding to provide charcoal in 2015. Lack of lighting at night also remains a protection concern at the PoC site but UNHCR has already procured and is expecting to receive solar street lights in February.
- Lack of shelter remains a challenge for IDPs who are occupying houses of other people in Bor town as former residents of town continue to return. Shelter interventions need to be upgraded to address the situation as IDPs are still unable to return to their areas of origin within Jonglei state for security reasons.

- **Nimule (Eastern Equatoria State):** The outflow of South Sudanese to Uganda through the Nimule border continued on a small scale with Dinka coming from Malakal/Bor and Madi from Mugali/Nimule/Loa. The security situation in Nimule is generally stable but the reinforced military presence is still observed and remains unpredictable.



Health/Nutrition

Refugees Response:

Achievements and Impact

- The acute watery diarrhea cases in Yida camp, which was confirmed to be not cholera, have continued to decrease. Since the beginning of the week, there were 218 cases seen at the MSF-F clinic, of which only 26 cases required inpatient management or short observations. Surveillance, case management, community health activities, community awareness, and sanitation improvements continued. Community Health Workers (CHW) and volunteer health promoters continue with health education and health promotion activities in the refugee camps including distribution of soap to the refugee community.
- Measles surveillance, active case finding, case management, routine immunization and community awareness is on-going in the camps. There are 14 measles cases still in isolation at the MSF-F facility, most are new arrivals and up to the age of 15 years and above. Ten new samples sent before the festive season were not tested and results are still pending.
- The second round of the three short interval of additional dose of polio vaccination campaign has started in four camps in Maban, and preparations are finalized to start in two camps in Unity State. The vaccination targets under five children. The campaign is in response to emergency circulating Vaccine derived Polio Virus 2 outbreak response in the three affected States in South Sudan. [In Yida camp, an integrated measles, polio and Vitamin A Supplementation will also take place in January 2015.](#)
- Preliminary results of f nutrition surveys conducted in all camps in Unity and Upper Nile in the last quarter of 2014 indicate malnutrition levels within normal limits; final reports are expected to be released in January 2015.



Water and Sanitation

Refugees Response:

Achievements and Impact

- Ajoung Thok camp has recorded a drop in water consumption, attributed to returning refugees who came to collect ration cards and relocation of refugees to Ajoung Thok. The *per capita* water consumption is at 16.2 l/p/day in Ajoung Thok.
- The number per useable water tap is 188. There are 370 water taps operational at 15 various water points, 268 water samples were tested (FRC) and 127 water samples found to have an FRC level $\Rightarrow >0.2$ mg/l, while 85 samples were found to have an FRC level $\Rightarrow >0.5$ mg/l.
- Five new family shared latrines were constructed last week, all using local materials. There is a shortage of plastic sheets. Latrine monitoring was carried out in 48 institutional latrines and all 115 were found to be clean. 2,380 community members benefited from hygiene and sanitation awareness raising during this week under review. The Crude latrine coverage is at 11 persons/latrine.



Logistics

Achievements and Impact

- **Transportation of Food, NFIs and other materials:** 46.4 MT of other assorted items/materials was transported in both locations (Ajoung Thok and Yida) during the reporting period to support various construction projects in the camps. 25,000 litres of water tracked for Yida and Ajoung Thok, schools and PHCU construction works, DRC Shelter Project in Ajoung Thok refugee camp, host community in Jamjang and for the transit centre in Yida. A durable solution should be found by WASH section to reduce the water tracking which is costly in fuel consumption.

- **Fuel Management:** The fuel issued in Yida was **4,777 litres** and in Jamjang **7,150 litres** making a total issued of **11,927 litres**. The balance of fuel stock in Yida at the end of day 6th January was 5,808 litres and in Jamjang **13,558 litres**. The total stock balance for both locations; Yida and Ajoung Thok is 19,306 litres and orders have been made for replenishment.
- **Warehouse Management:** During the reporting period, family tents and other core relief items have been released to replenish the DRC distribution warehouse to assist the new arrivals in the refugees' camp. The level of core relief items is reasonable except the soap which should be replenished for at least 5,000 Kg before 12th January 2015. Plastic sheets and Mosquito nets should also be replenished as priority before end of February 2015.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The fuel level is very low and this has slowed down the operations; the supply by air is very costly and urgently required. There are no other options for transportation at this time.



Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Achievements and Impact

- Regular Camp Management monitoring of services and community mobilization continued during the reporting week.
- Registration of IDPs was completed in Bentiu PoCs and Bentiu Town during the reporting period. A total of 43,718 individuals were registered, comprising 18,988 male and 24,730 female. These records will be made available for planning and general food distribution (GFD).
- The regular CCCM meeting took place to review overall response by CCCM in the PoC and other areas in Unity State. CCCM is preparing for a site upgrade in Bentiu and IOM has moved heavy machinery from Juba towards Bentiu Town for this purpose. The equipment is currently stuck in Wau, awaiting for road clearance, but it is hoped that the equipment will reach Bentiu within a week and work to start on the site before the onset of the rainy season.
- Returning refugees continue to be registered in Bor town; a total of 91 HHs registered by RRC who are reported to have come from Uganda and Kenya during the reporting period.
- Regular Camp Management monitoring of services and community mobilization continued during the reporting week. On Tuesday 8th January 2015, a meeting was organized between some UN agencies/NGOs and the RRC Director in Bentiu. The RRC Director informed the humanitarian agencies that there are many conflict affected IDPs and flood affected people in several *payams* in Mayom County who are in dire need of urgent humanitarian assistance. He further stated that there were also some IDPs that fled Warrap State and Aweil at the beginning of the conflict but have now returned to Mayom County. However, these returnees have not settled in the villages of origin but around the main trading towns.
- The RRC Director noted that the IDPs in the PoCs have fairly received humanitarian assistance and many gaps in the PoCs have been addressed. However, there were many IDPs outside the PoCs in both areas under the control of Government and SPLM-IO that have not received any assistance and are deeply suffering. The main gaps noted were food assistance, health, NFIs and WASH. However, delivery of livelihood support, e.g. Fishing Nets would make such communities self-sustaining.
- It was agreed at the end of the meeting that humanitarian organizations discuss this further in detail with other organizations and that the way forward would be communicated during the next meeting with the RRC in Bentiu on Tuesday 13th January 2015.
- During the Protection Cluster meeting, IRC announced a dignity kit distribution to all female heads of households and female of reproductive age. Due to the limited number of dignity kits, one dignity kit per household will be distributed.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some US\$117,287,859 million as of 6th January 2015.

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with earmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

