

418,882,292 USD

Funding requested for comprehensive needs (28 per cent funded so far)

146,921,610 USD

Funding requested for top priority activities (78 per cent funded so far)

SOUTH SUDAN

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE 40/2015

25 November to 9 December 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

- **US Ambassador visits Ajuong Thok with UNHCR** - On 8 December, UNHCR organized a one-day field trip for the US Ambassador to South Sudan, Molly Phee, joined by a delegation of donor countries including Canada, ECHO and DFID. The aim of the visit was to enable Ambassador Phee to understand the situation of refugees fleeing South Kordofan, appraise the impact of US contribution on refugees' living conditions and show solidarity with the refugees.
- **Congolese refugees from Ezo settlement flee to the Democratic Republic of the Congo** - On 4 December, UNHCR team in the Democratic Republic of the Congo reported that 1,206 Congolese refugees, previously in South Sudan, have fled to the areas near the border in Dungu Territory as a result of fighting between government forces and local armed groups (also known as Arrow Boys) in Western Equatoria. Ezo settlement in South Sudan, which was originally home to nearly 3,300 Congolese refugees, is now virtually empty, with the remaining refugee families having fled to nearby fields. The Commission for Refugee Affairs in coordination with UNHCR is looking assisting refugee families who have found refuge in farm fields around Ezo and are willing to relocate to Makpandu camp.
- **UNHCR begins registration of Burundian asylum-seekers**: In Juba, UNHCR and South Sudan's Commission for Refugee Affairs began on 2 December the registration and profiling of Burundian nationals who have asylum in South Sudan due to the recent violence in their country. To date, a total of 143 individuals (37 females and 107 males) have been registered at UNHCR's temporary registration centre.
- **UNHCR Commemorates 16 Days of Activism Against Sexual and Gender Based Violence**: On 25 November UNHCR kicked off the annual 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence campaign with a wide range of activities in refugee camps and sites for internally displaced people across South Sudan, including dramas, processions, awareness campaigns and games. In keeping with this year's theme, Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Make Education Safe for All, the focus is on access to safe education, especially for young people.

Current population of concern

IDPs since 15
December 2013



1,660,000

Of them, 178,906 IDPs reside in UNMISS Protection of Civilians sites

Refugees in South
Sudan



264,247

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

- Fighting erupted on 7 December in Yambio town between government forces and a faction of the Arrow Boys. Shooting was reported around government buildings as well as casualties. According to media reports, the fighting resulted from the arrest of members of the Arrow Boys group by the authorities. Movement restriction for UN staff is in effect in Yambio and all UN personnel are advised to remain home until the situation returns to normal control. All UNHCR staff are accounted for.
- On 4 December two senior members of the SPLM/A-In Opposition arrived in South Sudan's capital Juba in order to prepare for the reception of over 500 members of the advance team. These are Gabriel Deng, former undersecretary in the ministry of parliamentary affairs in Juba, and Elijah Tut, for protocol. It was reported that the United Nations have so far agreed to afford transporting only 50 members of the advance team. According to media reports, the government disagreed to accept any new date set by IGAD for the arrival of the advance team, unless the number of group is reduced. The advanced team was expected in Juba last month, but a disagreement over their numbers and members has delayed their arrival.
- Violent criminal activities remain on the rise throughout the country with the international humanitarian community being targeted. Highway robberies continued during the reporting period, with serious fatalities. The humanitarian community was however not affected by the recent road attacks.

REFUGEE RESPONSE



Protection

Achievements and Impact

Unity State

- UNHCR registered 162 new arrivals from Sudan's South Kordofan in Yida during the reporting period -107 more than the previous two weeks. The majority of them were single males from Boram, Heban and Umdoreen counties. After first reception and screening in Yida, they were relocated to Ajuong Thok camp, bringing the total number of refugees relocated from Yida to 16,445 since 23 December 2014.
- UNHCR continued to verify the refugee population of Yida. As a result, 134 refugees were inactivated due to return to their country of origin. Cumulatively 1,539 refugees have been inactivated since the exercise began in July 2015.
- UNHCR began distribution of second-hand clothes for all refugee families in Ajuong Thok. So far, 9,420 individuals have benefitted from this donation made by the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints.
- In Ajuong Thok, UNHCR held awareness sessions for 99 refugees on health response to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV).
- In Yida, UNHCR partner International Rescue Committee (IRC) reported three SGBV cases among the refugee community and provided psychosocial support and referrals for medical care and treatment.

Upper Nile State

- In Kaya refugee camp, UNHCR partner ACTED organized a one-day training on human rights, SGBV, and South Sudan laws for 120 community leaders.



Education

Achievements and Impact

Unity State

- In Ajuong Thok, UNHCR partner IRC trained 21 teachers on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.

Upper Nile State

- In Doro, Yusuf Batil and Gendrassa camps, UNHCR assisted 226 primary schools refugees to register with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology to sit for the National Primary Eight School Leaving Certificate Examinations.

Central Equatoria State

- In Lasu settlement, UNHCR partner ACROSS conducted briefing sessions for the 47 Primary Eight candidates who will be sitting for Primary Leaving Examination in December.

**Food Security and Nutrition****Achievements and Impact**

- UNHCR and WFP completed their Joint Mission Assessment (JAM) to assess food security and nutrition in all refugee camps in Unity and Upper Nile states.

Unity State

- In Ajuong Thok, UNHCR partner African Humanitarian Action (AHA) conducted a Blanket and Supplementary Feeding Programme (BSFP) for Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW) and children aged 6-23 months.
- In Ajuong Thok, UNHCR partner AHA screened 1,626 children and 850 PLW for Mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) malnutrition. As a result, 0.8 per cent of children had severe malnutrition and 8 per cent had moderate malnutrition. As for PLW, 8.5 per cent had severe malnutrition and 18.8 per cent had moderate malnutrition.

**Health****Achievements and Impact****Unity State**

- In Ajuong Thok, malaria continued to be the leading morbidity, representing 45 per cent of total consultations, followed by Acute Respiratory Infections (23 per cent of total consultations).
In Yida, there was a decrease in malaria cases from 47 per cent in week 45 (2-8 November) to 34 per cent in week 48 (23-29 November). The decline is attributed to a reduced presence of mosquitoes as well as the distribution of mosquito nets.

Upper Nile State

- In the four refugee camps in Maban, UNHCR and partners completed the third round of National Immunization Days (NIDs) campaigns with polio vaccination and vitamin A supplementation activities, reaching 100 per cent of children under 5 years.

Central Equatoria State

- In Lasu settlement, UNHCR partner ACROSS carried out HIV/AIDS prevention activities, including distribution of more than 2,600 condoms.

**Shelter and NFIs****Achievements and Impact****Upper Nile State**

- UNHCR partner Danish Refugee Council (DRC) completed the construction of 2,126 transitional shelters in Doro camp (of the planned 2,137) and another 144 units in Batil camp (of the planned 570).
- UNHCR completed the distribution of soap in Doro and Gendrassa camps for more than 68,000 refugees for the month of December.

Central Equatoria State

- In Lasu settlement, UNHCR partner ACROSS distributed sanitary materials to 230 women of reproductive age.
- In Gorom settlement, UNHCR partner ACROSS distributed soap to 1,864 refugees.

**Water and Sanitation****Achievements and Impact****Unity State**

- In Ajuong Thok, UNHCR partner IRC constructed 40 family latrines during the reporting period, giving a cumulative figure of 3,273 family latrines and 493 communal latrines. The latrine to person ratio was 1:9, which meets the UNHCR standard of a maximum of 20 persons per drop hole.

Upper Nile State

- In Maban camps, the quantity of water supply increased from 20 liter to 22 liters per person per day. The latrine to person ratio was 1:14, in line with UNHCR's standards.

**Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance****Achievements and Impact****Upper Nile State**

- In Doro, Yusuf Batil and Gendrassa camps, UNHCR partner Humane Development Consortium (HDC) delivered a training in computer literacy, masonry and electrical education for 266 refugees. After their graduation, the trainees will be given minimum startup kits.

Central Equatoria State

- In Lasu settlement, UNHCR mobilized 258 refugees living with HIV/AIDS to plant vegetables around the settlement as a way to help them become more self-sufficient.

Western Equatoria State

- 30 people from the refugee and host communities graduated from a three-month course in tailoring, driving, carpentry, masonry, plumbing and auto mechanic, organized by UNHCR partner World Vision International (WVI). The course took place at the Tiindoka Vocational Training Centre (VCT) in Yambio.

IDP RESPONSE**Protection****COORDINATION****Achievements and Impact**

- The protection actors including UNHCR's Protection Cluster Co-Coordinator joined an inter-agency mission to Thonyor, Unity State. The core objective of the mission was to assess, register IDPs, and provide basic assistance such as survival kits to IDPs. In a related intervention, protection partners went to Leer town for the same purpose, while the mission to Din Din was cancelled due to insecurity.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The movement of IDPs from Jonglei and Unity states into Rumbek Town and the Mingkaman settlement site in Lakes State has increased in the past weeks. The Protection Cluster is working with partners to monitor these movements, identify protection needs, and determine the causes of displacement.

OPERATIONS

- From 30 November to 2 December, representatives of UNHCR, the Government of South Sudan (Ministry of Justice) and South Sudanese civil society (CEPO) participated in a regional workshop in Addis Ababa on the Domestication of the Kampala Convention. The workshop explored opportunities for individual countries to become part of the Kampala Convention through ratification and domestication of its provisions into their national legislation. The South Sudan team developed a draft strategy for accession to the Kampala Convention, taking into consideration existing challenges and support required by the government to facilitate the process.

Unity State

- In Bentiu, UNHCR identified 20 extremely vulnerable IDP families and referred them to DRC for shelter arrangements.
- In Bentiu, UNHCR identified and referred to Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) and IRC three cases of rape against IDP women. These incidents occurred outside the Protection of Civilians site, as the victims were fleeing from Rubkona.

Upper Nile State

- In Wau Shilluk, as part of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, UNHCR organized a focus group discussion with mothers and teachers to reflect together on the challenges to education and the opportunities to make learning environments safer.

Central Equatoria State

- In Yei, with the support of UNHCR and other agencies, South Sudan's Relief and Rehabilitation Committee (RRC) verified and registered so far 1,116 individuals (282 families) who were displaced from Wanduruba in the past months. When verification and registration will be completed, a list of registered families will be shared with WFP for food assistance.



Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

Upper Nile State

- UNHCR partner HDC completed 600 emergency shelters for IDP with specific need scattered across Maban County. Another 200 units are in progress.

Unity State

- UNHCR distributed plastic sheets to 302 vulnerable individuals to help them set up temporary shelters in Bentiu town. Upon fleeing to Bentiu some three months, they found refuge at Liech Primary School. In September 2015, a state order called for the resumption of education activities at Liech, forcing more than 50 displaced families to vacate the school and relocate elsewhere in town.
- In Pariang, UNHCR partner AHA distributed dignity kits to 600 vulnerable girls and young women of reproductive age, including SGBV survivors, female-headed households, and lactating and pregnant mothers. Ten persons with specific needs and six separated children received food and soap in Yida and Aliny payams.

Jonglei State

- In Bor town, UNHCR partner HDC constructed nine shelters for persons with specific needs, identified through regular protection monitoring.

Lakes State

- In Rumbek, UNHCR partner Action Africa Help International (AAHI) and RRC distributed kits of non-food items for 353 individuals (83 families) displaced from Mayendit, Panijar, and Bentiu Counties of Unity State. The distribution included blankets, sleeping mats, mosquito nets, jerry cans, bars of soap, and cooking tools.

- In Mingkaman, an IRNA assessment conducted by members of all clusters, including UNHCR, revealed that new arrivals lack basic needs, including water. The elderly and children are sleeping outside, with many families being headed by women. The clusters are working on next steps and UNHCR has provided 40 family tents to be distributed to extremely vulnerable families through its partner ACTED.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to USD 114,158,790 as of 8 December 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.

Funding received (in USD)

