

**275,566,214 USD**

Funding requested for comprehensive needs in 2016

**120,021,666 USD**

Funding requested for prioritized needs in 2016

## SOUTH SUDAN

### UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE 4/2016

16 February to 1 March 2016

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **UNHCR and protection partners respond to the needs of IDPs in Malakal** - On 19 February, UNHCR and protection partners undertook an initial rapid protection assessment at the Protection of Civilians site in Malakal to identify persons with specific needs left behind following the fighting between ethnic Dinka and Shilluk on 17 and 18 February, which displaced more than 26,000 people and left 19 people killed and more than 90 wounded. As part of the inter-agency response, protection partners established a child protection desk to facilitate reunification of children as well as a confidential clinic space for Sexual and Gender-Based Violence response. UNHCR reinforced its protection response with the deployment of two Protection Officers.
- **South Sudan Eligibility Committee launches** - In Juba, South Sudan's Commission for Refugee Affairs with the support of UNHCR organized on 19 February a launching ceremony for the South Sudan Eligibility Committee, which is provided for under Article 16 of the South Sudan Refugee Act 2012. The Committee is chaired by a representative of the Ministry of Justice, and is responsible for considering applications for refugee status and making recommendations to the Minister of the Interior on matters relating to refugee status, in particular, cases of expulsion or extradition and cases of cessation of refugee status.
- **Norwegian Ambassador inaugurates solar plant in Maban** - On 24 February the Norwegian Ambassador, Tone Tinnes, travelled to Maban with the UNHCR Representative and officials from the Norwegian Embassy and the Norwegian Early Preparedness System (NOREPS) to inaugurate the new hybrid solar energy plant in Kaya camp, which will service nearly 24,000 refugees and their host community. The plant was funded by NOREPS through Innovation Norway in a joint contribution with Dadaab in Kenya focusing on sustainable energy solutions, and will provide return for investment within two years.

IDPs since 15  
December 2013



Of them, 181,536 IDPs reside in UNMISS Protection of Civilians sites

Refugees in South  
Sudan



## OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

- On 26 February, the government of the United States deferred proposed sanctions of arms embargo on South Sudan during a session of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). The sanctions, proposed by Ambassador Ismael Abraao Gaspar Martins of the Angola mission to the UN, were backed by the United Kingdom whose ambassador told the council that individuals obstructing peace in South Sudan should also be targeted. However, US opposed the timing of the sanctions, saying there was need to give time to the opposing parties in the August 2015 peace agreement to implement the deal.
- UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon visited South Sudan on 25 February together with OCHA Assistant-Secretary General Kyung-wha Kang. During the visit, they met with President Salva Kiir and paid a visit to the Protection of Civilians (POC) site 3 in Juba along with humanitarian partners. The Secretary-General also announced the allocation of USD 21 million for South Sudan's Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for 2016 through the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). HRP is reportedly 6.5 percent funded. On 26 February, UNHCR joined Kyung-wha Kang on a field visit to Malakal to witness the impact of the armed violence that took place on 17 and 18 February.
- On 23 February, South Sudan's President Salva Kiir and First-Vice President Riek Machar agreed on a plan to implement phased transitional security arrangements for Juba, as proposed by the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC). The plan includes the deployment of 1,370 SPLM/A-In Opposition forces in Juba, which is deemed to be sufficient for Machar to return to Juba and partake in the establishment of the Transitional Government of National Unity (TGoNU). The remaining 1,540 opposition forces would be transported to the capital following the formation of the TGoNU.
- More than 26,000 people have been displaced by fighting that broke out on 17 February evening between ethnic Dinka and Shilluk at a site for internally displaced people in Malakal. Sudan's People Liberation Army (SPLA) soldiers reportedly entered the Protection of Civilians (POC) site, which was hosting 48,000 internally displaced people. Humanitarian partners on the ground reported shooting, looting of properties and burning of houses. Many families were separated in the rush to flee. According to reports, 18 people were killed, including to MSF staff, and more than 90 wounded. A number of civilians remain in very critical conditions. Two clinics, run by IOM and International Medical Corps (IMC), were looted and burned. Some 4,000 displaced Dinka fled to Malakal town, while tens of thousands of Nuer and Shilluk IDPs sought refuge at the UNMISS (UN Mission in South Sudan) base in Malakal. Some 6,700 families lost their shelters to the fire, and all services were disrupted, including water.

## REFUGEE RESPONSE



### Protection

#### Achievements and Impact

##### Unity State

- In Yida, UNHCR registered 393 new arrivals from Sudan's South Kordofan in the last two weeks of February, bringing the total number of new arrivals since 1 January 2016 to 2,120. The vast majority came from Heban, Umdoreen and Boram Counties and reported hunger as the main reason for fleeing to South Sudan. During the reporting period, 797 refugees were relocated from Yida to Ajuong Thok, including new arrivals and long-standing residents of Yida. This brings the total number of refugees relocated to Ajuong Thok since the beginning of the year to 2,073. Among them were 85 newly arrived unaccompanied and separated children, for whom UNHCR has been organizing foster arrangements and family reunification.
- In Ajuong Thok camp, UNHCR partner Lutheran World Federation (LWF) provided 86 foster parents with material assistance in order to enable them to better care for their foster children.
- In Panrieng County, UNHCR delivered a one-day training on refugee protection and refugee rights for senior government officials, including representatives from South Sudan's Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA), Police, Immigration, Prison Service as well as county and payam administration.

### **Upper Nile State**

- In Doro and Batil camps, UNHCR partner Danish Refugee Council (DRC) began conducting sessions on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) for women and girls to enable them to report incidents of this nature to relevant personnel. A total of 93 women and girls have so far joined the sessions.

### **Central Equatoria State**

- In Juba, CRA with the support of UNHCR organized on 19 February a launching ceremony for the South Sudan Eligibility Committee, which is provided for under Article 16 of the South Sudan Refugee Act 2012. The Committee comprises representatives from eight key Ministries, Directorates and Commissions, with CRA serving as Secretary to the Committee. The Committee is chaired by a representative of the Ministry of Justice, and is responsible for considering applications for refugee status and making recommendations to the Minister of the Interior on matters relating to refugee status, in particular, cases of expulsion or extradition and cases of cessation of refugee status. Participants agreed on several key action points, most notably, the formal review of the Draft Refugee Regulations by the Ministry of Justice and key stakeholders, the need for capacity-building for the Eligibility Committee and expedited recruitment and training of CRA Refugee Status Determination (RSD) caseworkers.
- In Gorom camp, UNHCR conducted a one-day training on refugee protection and refugee rights and responsibilities for 30 people, including representatives from the local police, community watch team and the host community. A refresher on PSEA was also delivered.
- In Lasu settlement, UNHCR received 45 Sudanese nationals from the war-torn Nuba Mountains who had previously registered as refugees in other locations in South Sudan. UNHCR and CRA are looking into the reasons behind their relocation.
- In Lasu settlement, UNHCR and CRA established refugee community watch teams to help maintain safety and security in the settlement alongside the existing police. So far, 35 volunteers were identified among Congolese and Sudanese refugees.

### **Western Equatoria State**

- In Makpandu camp, UNHCR registered 10 new arrivals from Sudan (3), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (3) and Central African Republic (4), bringing the camp population to 3,598 people.

### **Jonglei State**

- UNHCR undertook an assessment mission to Pochalla following reports of thousands of Ethiopian nationals having fled the recent clashes in Ethiopia's Gambella region. So far, 185 Ethiopians of Anyuak ethnicity have been registered as asylum seekers in Pochalla.

## **Identified needs and remaining gaps**

### **Central Equatoria State**

- There is a need to allocate more land for Lasu settlement in order to accommodate its increasing population. To this effect, UNHCR and CRA have met with host community chiefs and authorities to negotiate the expansion of the settlement.



## **Education**

### **Achievements and Impact**

#### **Unity State**

- In Ajuong Thok camp, UNHCR partner LWF recruited and trained on Code of Conduct and Child Protection Policy 17 new teachers for primary schools and Adult Learning Programme (ALP). The recruitment of secondary school teachers was also completed and teachers will take up duties on 1 March.
- In Ajuong Thok camp, UNHCR partner LWF shortlisted 74 candidates for the upcoming computer training programme, including 37 for the morning session and 37 others for the afternoon session.

### **Upper Nile State**

- UNHCR and its partner LWF conducted a two-day Healing Classroom training for 33 participants, including head teachers, teachers and education officers of Yusuf Batil, Kaya and Gendrassa camps.

### **Western Equatoria State**

- In Makpandu camp, UNHCR partner World Vision International (WVI) recruited 5 teachers for the primary school and ALP, bringing the number of teachers to 19. During the reporting period, some 783 students received 2,550 exercise books.



## **Food Security and Nutrition**

### **Achievements and Impact**

#### **Unity State**

- The February's General Food Distribution was successfully completed in both Yida and Ajuong Thok, reaching more than 100,000 refugees. All the four commodities (sorghum, peas, oil and salt) were included in the basket, reduced by 30 percent.

#### **Upper Nile State**

- In Maban camps, World Food Programme (WFP) carried out February's GFD, reaching more than 130,000 refugees. The 70 percent reduction of monthly food rations included cereals, pulses and cooking oil.

#### **Central Equatoria State**

- In Lasu refugee camp, February's GFD took place in the last week of February, targeting 10,702 refugees. The 70 percent reduction of monthly food rations included sorghum, yellow peas, vegetable oil and salt.

### **Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps**

#### **Upper Nile State**

- On 22 February, a youth group in Doro camp disrupted the distribution of Targeted Supplementary Food Program (TSFP), seizing nutrition supplies in two distribution centers. UNHCR and partners organized a meeting with the community to bring the issue to their attention and urge them to help prevent such incidents in the future.



## **Health**

### **Achievements and Impact**

#### **Upper Nile State**

- In Maban County Hospital, UNHCR partner Samaritan's Purse (SP) conducted from 12 to 17 February the third round of cataract surgery and eye care campaign. The eye doctors screened a total of 1,080 cases from the refugee and host communities and performed 502 cataract surgeries.



## **Water and Sanitation**

### **Achievements and Impact**

#### **Unity State**

- In Ajuong Thok camp, the average water coverage stands at 18.6 litre per person per day (l/p/d), which is slightly below UNHCR standards of 20 l/p/d. This is not of concern as monitoring revealed that all water bladders are full and all taps are functional. The average latrine-to-refugee ratio is 9:1, which is within UNHCR standards of a maximum of 20 persons per latrine. During the reporting period, 16 family latrines were constructed across the camp, bringing the total number of latrines to 3,888 (493 communal latrines and 3,395 family latrines).

- In Yida, the average water coverage stands at 16.8 l/p/d, which is slightly below UNHCR standards of 20 l/p/d. This is not of concern as monitoring revealed that all water bladders are full and all taps are functional. The average latrine-to-refugee ratio is 10:1, which is within UNHCR standards. During the reporting period, 8 family latrines were constructed, bringing the total number of latrines to 7,238 (438 communal latrines and 6,800 family latrines).

### **Upper Nile State**

- In Maban camps, the average water coverage increased cumulatively from 21 to 22-26 l/p/d compared to the first two weeks of February 2016. This is above the minimum standards of 20 l/p/d. The average latrine-to-refugee ratio is 13:1, which is within UNHCR standards.
- On 24 February the Norwegian Ambassador, Tone Tinnes, travelled to Maban with the UNHCR Representative and officials from the Norwegian Embassy and the Norwegian Early Preparedness System (NOREPS) to inaugurate the new hybrid solar energy plant in Kaya camp, which will service nearly 24,000 refugees and their host community. The plant was funded by NOREPS through Innovation Norway in a joint contribution with Dadaab in Kenya focusing on sustainable energy solutions, and will provide return for investment within two years.

### **Central Equatoria State**

- In Lasu settlement, UNHCR partner ACROSS distributed soap to some 10,702 refugees.



## **Shelter and NFIs**

### **Achievements and Impact**

#### **Unity State**

- In Ajuong Thok, UNHCR partner DRC supported 148 families with emergency shelter materials, including wooden poles and plastic sheeting.



## **Camp Coordination and Camp Management**

### **Achievements and Impact**

#### **Unity State**

- In Pamir, UNHCR partner UNOPS completed 14 km of internal roads. Furthermore, UNHCR prepositioned materials for the construction of a reception centre and drilled successfully three of the four boreholes planned for the new camp. Pumping test is underway.

### **Upper Nile State**

- On 17 February, UNHCR, CRA and partners inaugurated the refugee and host community youth center in Doro camp under the theme "Welcome peace, bye-bye conflict: education first, illiteracy behind."
- In Bunj town, Concordis International organized a tree-day conference on peaceful coexistence to explore modalities to prevent tensions between the refugee and host communities and to update a written agreement on peaceful coexistence, drafted in 2012 and then reviewed in 2014.



## **Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance**

### **Upper Nile State**

- In Maban, UNHCR facilitated a five-day Training of Trainer (ToT) seminar on Child Resilience, run by partner Save the Children International (SCI). The training was designed to enhance facilitation knowledge and skills of community-based child protection caseworkers, who will be conducting 12 workshops for some 1,375 children.

## IDP RESPONSE



### Protection

#### OPERATIONS

##### Unity State

- In Bentiu POC, UNHCR identified 147 extreme vulnerable IDP families and referred them to DRC for shelter assistance. A total of 19 unaccompanied minors were also identified and referred to Non Violent Peace Force for family tracing and reunification and foster care arrangements. UNHCR supported 40 foster children with non-food items. UNHCR has also identified 20 survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), committed outside the POC, and referred them to Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for medical attention and psychosocial support. Bentiu POC is currently hosting 120,278 IDPs.

##### Upper Nile State

- On 19 February, UNHCR and protection partners undertook an initial rapid protection assessment at Malakal POC to identify persons with specific needs left behind following the fighting between ethnic Dinka and Shilluk on 17 and 18 February, which displaced more than 26,000 people and left 19 people killed and more than 90 wounded. Scores of elderly people were reunited with their relatives. A child protection desk was established to facilitate reunification of children as well as a confidential clinic space for SGBV response. Another assessment looked into the needs of civilians displaced in Malakal town and inside the UNMISS base. UNHCR reinforced its protection response with the deployment of two Protection Officers.

##### Central Equatoria State

- In Juba POC site 3, UNHCR inaugurated its Protection Desk on 23 October 2016, serving IDPs from both POC sites 1 and 3. The Desk will be opened on Tuesdays and Thursdays for individual counseling.
- In Juba, UNHCR paid a visit to IDPs and refugee returnees who have recently gathered around Juba airport seeking transport from the capital to Greater Upper Nile states. UNHCR observed the presence of approximately 500-700 individuals, predominantly women and children, who reported facing economic challenges to support themselves in Juba and expressed an interest to return to their places of origin. UNHCR will continue monitoring the situation.

##### Western Equatoria State

- Following January's inter-agency assessment in Yambio's Ikpiro residential area, humanitarian partners are mobilizing resources to respond to the needs of 775 families whose houses were burned or looted in December 2015. UNHCR is providing 1,000 pieces of plastic sheeting, 500 pieces of plastic buckets and 2,325 pieces of soaps.

##### Jonglei State

- UNHCR joined an Inter-Cluster Rapid Assessment (ICRA) of IDPs and returnees in Duk County, following reports of fresh displacement. Preliminary results show that the IDPs are in urgent need of food, shelter, NFI and WASH as well as services to support family tracing and reunification.



### Shelter and NFIs

#### Achievements and Impact

##### Upper Nile State

- In Maban County, UNHCR partner ACTED distributed 470 jerry cans to the Leika IDP community and completed extension of the water supply in Offra village, including the installation of a 45,000 litres water storage tank, bringing the water storage capacity to 56,000 litres.

##### Lakes State

- UNHCR partner Humane Development Consortium (HDC) contributed to the distribution of NFI and shelter materials for 2,400 IDP families in Mingkaman.