



Refugees in Unity State

FACT SHEET

Statistics



Location	Registered	Unverified	Total
Nyeel	638	22	660
Pariang	1,542	431	1,973
Yida	16,022	4,340	20,362
TOTAL	18,202	4,793	22,995

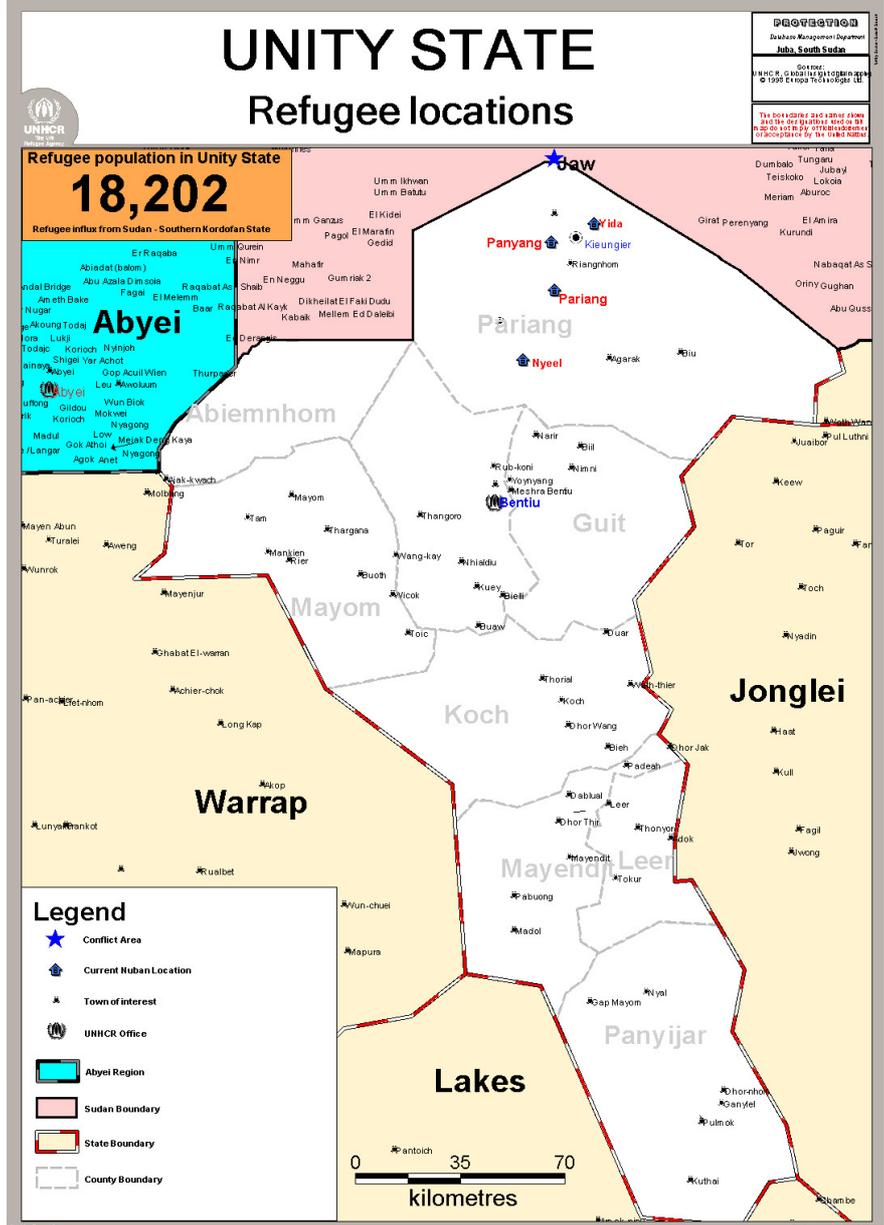
Background and operational context

- In May 2011, war broke out between Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) in Southern Kordofan state, Sudan, following disputed election results.
- Some 200,000 people were displaced as a result. Significant numbers fled southward across the border into Unity state in South Sudan.
- The majority settled at Yida, close to the disputed border area of Jau. The security situation is generally volatile, with intermittent skirmishes between the warring parties. Fighting and bombing incidents heighten concerns about security of refugees in Yida.
- Some refugees relocated to formal settlements in Nyeel and Pariang, which were allocated by the authorities of South Sudan for refugees to settle.

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UNHCR's role

- Co-ordination of responses to the refugees' needs, with regular consultations at both point of delivery and national levels.
- Protection monitoring, registration, dealing with child separation and the high incidence of unaccompanied minors are among the protection activities being carried out. Identifying and addressing concerns of persons with special needs including prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence are also key priorities.
 - The principal cause for alarm is the proximity of refugees in Yida a volatile conflict zone. This raises grave concerns about security of refugees (and humanitarian workers) as well as the need to maintain the civilian character of refugee settlements.
 - The imperative of providing education cannot be overstated. Well over half of the refugee children is under 18 years of age.
- Dialogue with refugees to relocate to safer areas away from the border. Refugees wish to remain close to their homeland, the Nuba Mountains. Moreover, they are not accustomed to living in flat lands and prefer the Yida landscape. This notwithstanding, the security of refugees is paramount.
- Negotiate with the authorities to provide land for settlement and cultivation by means of promoting refugee self-reliance.
- Coordinate with UNMISS/UNMAC regarding transportation of refugees from Yida and de-mining of travel routes.
- Provide basic life-sustaining assistance to all refugees, including protection, food, water-sanitation-hygiene, nutrition and health services. In Nyeel and Pariang, refugees also have access to basic as well as expanded services in primary and secondary education along with support to engage in agriculture.

Operational constraints

- Security of humanitarian workers.
- Delivery of humanitarian aid during the rainy season conditions deteriorate and roads become impassable.

New developments (April 2012)

- **UNHCR is deeply concerned about the security of refugees and humanitarian workers in Unity state. A worsening security situation could put them in harm's way and seriously hamper the delivery of humanitarian aid.**
- Unity state has borne the brunt of the recent upsurge in hostilities between Sudan and South Sudan, notably through multiple incidents of aerial bombardment in different locations.
- Refugee settlements in Yida, Pariang and Nyeel were not directly affected. UNHCR and partner staff continue to conduct protection and assistance activities for refugees in these locations.
- Staff have reported the situation in all three settlements has remained relatively calm despite the hostilities.
- In the month of April there has been a notable increase in the number of new arrivals, with an average of 234 per day as compared to 84 per day in February and March.
- New arrivals cite the following as the causes of flight:
 - food shortages in Southern Kordofan (among new arrivals an increase in cases of malnutrition has been noted);
 - anticipation of the rainy season and concerns that they may not be able to reach Yida after the rains begin. During the rainy season, which lasts from May to September, roads become impassable. Last year, logistical and security constraints led to interruptions of food distribution on several occasions during the rainy season.
 - persons arriving from Kadugli cite intense fighting.

Operational responses

- Ongoing registration of new arrivals during which persons with specific needs are identified and attended to.
- Agencies are implementing supplementary feeding programmes to address cases of malnutrition.
- Refugees receive one-month full food rations. WFP is setting up additional rubhalls for storage of food in all three locations.
- UNHCR has pre-positioned non-food items including mosquito nets, soap and used clothing; agencies are discussing ways to prioritize/assist the vulnerable. There are large numbers of unaccompanied minors.
- Modalities for medical evacuation of refugees are also being discussed as the rains approach.