



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 priorities. Identifying and addressing concerns of persons with specific needs including prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence are also key activities.
 - The principal cause for alarm is the proximity of refugees in Yida a volatile conflict zone. This raises grave concerns about security of refugees as well as the need to maintain the civilian character of refugee settlements.
 - The imperative of providing education in a safe environment cannot be overstated. Well over half of the refugee children are 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.
- 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 expanded services in primary and secondary education along with support to engage in agriculture.
- Negotiate with the authorities to provide land for settlement and cultivation by means of promoting refugee self-reliance.

Operational constraints

- Security of refugees and 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 in Unity state. A worsening security situation could put them in harm's way and seriously hamper the delivery of humanitarian aid.
- Unity state bore 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 agencies continue to conduct protection and assistance activities for refugees in these locations.
- **In the month of April there has been a notable increase in the number of new arrivals, with an average of 300 per day by the end of April, as compared to 84 per day in February and March.**
- **New arrivals increasingly show signs of malnutrition.**
- New arrivals cite the following as the causes of flight:
 - food shortages in Southern Kordofan;
 - continued fighting in Southern Kordofan

Operational responses

- Accelerated procedures have been put in place to register the increasing number of new arrivals .
- Malnourished persons are referred to immediate treatment.
- Refugees receive regular one-month full food rations. WFP is setting up additional rubble halls for storage of food in all three locations.
- In preparation for the upcoming rainy season, UNHCR is distributing and prepositioning non-food items including plastic sheeting, mosquito nets, soap and clothing; Distributions prioritise the most vulnerable, including large numbers of unaccompanied minors and new arrivals.
- Modalities for medical evacuation of refugees are also being discussed as the roads get cut off during the rainy season.