

Update on Emergency Response Operations in South Sudan Week Ending 26 September 2012

Highlights

- General insecurity concerns persist in both regions due to tensions along the border.
- Flood water partly receding in Bunj, Maban County.
- Clash between refugee and host community in Gendrassa settlement raises authorities' concerns.
- Protection concerns in Yida endure; systematic weapons search in camp puts refugees at risk.

Upper Nile State

Security: The general security situation along the national and international border areas with Jamam payam was reported to be volatile and SPLA-S increased deployment and patrol activities along the main roads and on the road to way to the border. UNHCR continues to document and intervene against the presence of armed personnel in and around the refugee settlements as a threat to the civilian character of camps.

Flooding assessment: Floods have caused further road damage, temporarily halting all road maintenance works. A multi-sectoral assessment was conducted at Doro camp; the team reported that flooding has affected the three road crossings along the main road, but only a few shelters and latrines have been damaged. UNHCR is issuing plastic sheets and tents those families affected. Reduced rains and the arrival of culverts by airlift have enabled UNOPS to conduct critical repairs. The roads situation improved considerably in the second half of the week as a result.



Boys from the host and refugee communities in Doro play together. UNHCR/T.Ongaro

Inter-communal clash at Gendrassa: An altercation over a private matter between a refugee and a Mabanese resident led to a sizable inter-communal confrontation in Gendrassa camp this week. Law enforcement forces were immediately deployed and wounded on both sides taken to the medical facilities. One refugee succumbed of his wounds. A second reported death remains to be confirmed. Humanitarian actors and local authorities, including at the Malakal levels have immediately mobilized to diffuse tension and reconcile the communities. The incident reflects a broader tension among local residents over the increased refugee population. Dialogue with local communities is being intensified to share information on projects designed for host communities and plans to set up new sites outside Maban for future arrivals.

Water, Hygiene and Sanitation: Continued efforts by WASH actors substantially improve water availability and hygiene and sanitation conditions in all camps.

Location	Water coverage	Latrine ratio
Jamam	26 liters/person	1:23
Yusuf Batil	9.2 liters/person*	1:23
Gendrassa	20 liters/person	1:24
Doro	17 liters/persons	1:19

*Three shallow rigs and one deep rig are simultaneously drilling in Batil to secure additional boreholes shortly.

Nutrition and Health: The estimated average GAM rates from therapeutic programs reported in all camps during the week of 9-16 September remain above the emergency threshold of 15% (Yusuf Batil: 21.6%; Doro: 17.3%; Gendrassa: 17.4%; Jamam: 20.8%). Regarding the recent outbreak of Hepatitis E, 57 new cases reported in Yusuf Batil. There were no related hospitalizations or deaths in Jamam during the reporting period. The reduction in cases is likely linked to an increase community sensitization and active case identification and follow-up, particularly pregnant women who are most at risk, as well as improved water availability and distribution of soap in the camps.

Registration activities: House to house verification continued in Doro; 31 new arrivals (122 households) were registered. UNHCR continued food and NFI distribution alongside nutritional screening of new arrivals registered in Doro to mitigate the incidence of malnutrition. The registration team is planning to complete registration for approximately 2,800 new arrivals in Yusuf Batil at the end of September.

Food Security: Nine trucks from WFP and six from UNHCR are moving roughly 540 metric tons of cereals and pulses to Doro to ensure a 30-day general food distribution begins by 2 October. Successful delivery is contingent upon road conditions that have been badly damaged during recent flooding. New road repair heavy equipment reached Maban this week under a UNHCR contract. This considerably enhances the capacity on the ground to keep access open for convoy and humanitarian services.

Gendrassa Relocation: UNHCR continued the relocation of refugees from Jamam to Gendrassa and a total of 1,593 refugees were relocated during the week. All the trucks that had been helping WFP transport food have been returned;

consequently UNHCR is back to its expected trucking capacity to relocate refugees. In light of the flooding in the area, UNHCR placed a small team of protection and registration staff in Gendrassa from 17-24 September to ensure the continuation of the relocation process.

Unity State

YIDA

Security and protection: As tension is rising again in border areas, UNHCR remains extremely concerned about the safety of the refugees in Yida. The presence of a refugee settlement in highly militarized border areas close to a conflict zone hampers efforts to preserve the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum. An ongoing search for weapons throughout Yida is increasing concerns, with abusive treatment and a number of detentions occurring in the process. UNHCR and all protection partners are closely monitoring the situation and advocating with the authorities to ensure the safety of refugees and protect the right to safe asylum. Against this backdrop, UNHCR and partners are increasing monitoring of the boys’ and girls’ compounds after a number of boys were taken and released during the weapon search.

Registration and screening of new arrivals: From 16 - 23 September, 737 individuals were registered, including two new births. Of the new arrivals, 42 percent are minors and 58 percent over 18 years of age; 54 percent are female, 46 percent are male. The majority of new arrivals cited insecurity as the main cause of flight coupled with the lack of food, shortage of basic services and education for children. Refugees say they fear the conflict is expected to intensify during the dry season. There is an increase in the number of reported areas being bombed as compared to last week, including Umdurein, Buram, Katcha, Tess, Fama, Talodi and Tabayan while ground fighting has reportedly intensified in Kadugli. While young children continue to arrive poor health, SAM and MAM rates measured on arrival decreased slightly since last week from 6.87% SAM and 7.63% MAM to 5.2% for both.

Child Protection: Partners reported that 40 out of a total of 78 girls at the older girls’ compound expressed willingness to relocate within the community. A child protection partner has begun relocating fourteen girls: a process that includes the provision of shelter materials and provision of dignity kits. Four girls at the younger girl’s compound would like to reunite with their families in the coming weeks.

Health: Overall, all health partners are reporting similar trends: a general decline in admissions in clinics. Cases of diarrhea continue to decrease, and more patients are discharged than admitted. The main morbidity for the reporting period was respiratory tract infections (both upper and lower) while malaria remains high, but stable. UNHCR and partners will continue to monitor and analyze the reason for this trend.

WASH: Intensive efforts to improve water availability and hygiene and sanitation facilities continue. Nine motorized boreholes are providing 11 lpd while drilling continues and additional pumping hours will allow for more water availability. To date, a total of 1,108 additional shared family latrines and 226 community latrines have been completed. 93 hygiene promoters and 300 volunteers have been undertaking hygiene awareness/promotion in the camp. During the week, UNHCR senior WASH officer and UNHCR South Sudan WASH coordinator visited WASH activities at Yida.

PARIANG and NYEEL

Health: Following reports of five cases and one death of acute watery bloody diarrhea in Pariang, UNHCR took immediate measures to contain the illness, including deploying staff and airlifting WASH NFIs. Measures taken include: increased bucket chlorination, intensive hygiene promotion on key risky hygiene behavior, jerry can exchange, and distribution of hygiene kits for women. A health investigation was also initiated.

Food: In Nyeel, new arrivals continue to be recorded regularly. WFP agreed to provide food for new arrivals on a weekly basis through World Vision International.

Statistics

Upper Nile State: 106,941		Unity State: 66,471	
Batil	34,112	Nyeel	963
Doro	42,996	Pariang	1,223
Jamam	17,543	Yida	64,285
Gendrassa	12,290		

Partners:
ACROSS; ACTED; CARE; Danish Refugee Council (DRC); GOAL; GIZ; IBIS; International Rescue Committee (IRC); International Organization for Migration (IOM); INTERSOS; MEDAIR; MSF-Belgium; MSF-France; Non-Violence Peace Force (NVPF); Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC); OXFAM; Relief International; Samaritan Purse; Save the Children Fund; UNICEF; World Food Programme (WFP); World Relief; World Vision International