

Update on Emergency Response Operations in South Sudan Week Ending 22 September 2012

Highlights

- Hepatitis E deaths in Maban County reach 19; UNHCR working with partners to curb outbreak.
- Relocation of refugees from Jamam to Gendrassa continues; 1,721 refugees were relocated, including 22 new arrivals.
- The percentage of under-five new arrival children suffering from severe malnutrition is increasing in Yida, raising concerns about the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Southern Kordofan.
- UNHCR continues its distribution of essential relief items, mosquito nets to all households and plastic sheeting on a needs basis.



A refugee woman holding her newborn baby boy that was born in a clinic in Yida. UNHCR/K.Mahoney

Upper Nile State

Hepatitis E: As of 19 September, a total of 19 Hepatitis E deaths have been reported with 13 in Jamam, 4 in Yusuf Batil and 2 in Gendrassa. There have been a total of 539 cases, although a substantial number of reported cases have been either asymptomatic or mild. UNHCR and partners continue to scale up prevention interventions including intensive sensitization of communities to hygiene practices, constructing additional hand-washing stations, increasing access to safe drinking water, and improving overall sanitation conditions in the camp at this critical time of the rainy season.

Heavy rains and flooding: As reported last week, heavy rains and rising water levels caused severe flooding on the east-west road linking Bunj and Jamam. Subsequent rains on 17 September exacerbated the situation and UNOPS began conducting repairs to minimize further damage. In some parts, the flooded areas are waist deep. Currently, only one-way traffic is possible on the road vehicles are stalling in the water. UNHCR identified members of the Zariba and Baldugu community that were meters from rising floodwaters near Bunj. Relief International is monitoring the situation and will relocate those affected to safer and dryer ground.

Security: On 17 Sept, UNHCR began receiving reports of increased tension along the east-west road between Jamam and Kilo 10. There have been no reports of fighting in Maban County and the SPLA battalion commander in Jamam stated that increased patrolling is ongoing in light of suspected movements of the David Yau Yau militia group. In addition, unconfirmed information from new arrivals indicates continued aerial bombardment as one of the reasons for fleeing from Blue Nile. Other arrivals cited hunger as the main cause of flight.

Water, Hygiene and Sanitation: Continued efforts by WASH actors have led to improved water availability and sanitation in all camps. In Yusuf Batil the treatment and distribution of water from the nearby river initially envisaged as a back up to improve water availability while an additional three boreholes are being drilled, was put on hold. This will allow UNHCR and partners to verify whether there is a risk of Hepatitis E contamination by the river despite chlorination. WASH actors and the Centre for Disease Control are currently reviewing the matter. A deeper rig able to drill to 300m arrived in Yusuf Batil and will start drilling additional boreholes to supplement existing ones while relieving the shallower aquifer. Borehole drilling also continued in Doro and Gendrassa. The ICRC-built pipeline from the main borehole to Jamam two is nearing completion; this will avoid expensive water trucking in the future.

Location	Population	Water coverage	Latrine ratio
Jamam	18,846	14 liters/person/day	1:25
Batil	34,112	9.2 liters/person*	1:23
Gendrassa	10,987	12,6 liters/person	1:28
Doro	42,606	17 liters/persons	1:19

*See above regarding river treatment

Health and Nutrition: Malaria is currently the leading morbidity followed by respiratory infection and watery diarrhea. In Doro, SP continued conducting door-to-door and village-to-village verification of children aged 6-35 months to ensure that all eligible

children for the nutrition programs are registered. The GAM in Doro remains at 18 percent. In Yusuf Batil, screening of children and adults above five years of age has begun at the outpatient clinics. Thus far, a total of 93 beneficiaries have been admitted. The GAM in Yusuf Batil increased from 22 percent to 23.7 percent this week. Exhaustive door-to-door screening by MSF-H commenced. The GAM in Jamam is 16 percent. Medair will soon start a MAM program in Jamam to reinforce nutrition efforts.

Registration of new arrivals: Registration in Doro camp was ongoing during the reporting period after the completion of a house-to-house verification exercise. Community services staff were actively involved in the process to ensure that food and relief items are being systematically provided to new arrivals and that nutritional screening continues to mitigate the incidence of malnutrition. A similar verification exercise is planned for Yusuf Batil camp for the last week of September. Registration activities in Jamam are suspended as relocations continue to move refugees from Jamam to Gendrassa camp.

Returnees at Doro: On 14 September IOM and UNHCR completed a joint visit near Bunj town with the South Sudanese Relief and Rehabilitation Committee and local Umda to survey land identified for possible allocation to the 431 Jindi returnees currently in Doro camp, as well as the approximately 800 Mabanese returnees presently stranded in Renk County. The surveyed land, approximately 1.5 km², is not subject to flooding, has three water points, and currently accommodates approximately 100 returnee households. The Umda has also noted the need for schools and clinics in the area.

Education: Lutheran World Federation began working as education partner in Yusuf Batil and Gendrassa camps. Intersos is currently building two new schools to be completed within ten days in Gendrassa and ACTED committed to build another six. UNHCR is continuing discussions with partners to standardize teacher's salary and incentives for workers.

Unity State

YIDA

Registration of new arrivals: 1,105 new arrivals were registered during the reporting period. Children constituted 62 percent of the new arrivals population. Many individuals reported leaving families behind in safer area of the Nuba Mountains and came to Yida to construct shelters in preparation of their families' arrival of their families. During the registration and litigation process, the team identified 54 recyclers (60% were children), 18 non-refugees. The majorities of new arrivals, especially the children, appeared exceptionally tired and worn out.

Medical & Nutritional screening of new arrivals: Young children are arriving in increasingly poor health and nutrition. At the end of August 2012, 3.3 percent of children under five were severely malnourished (SAM) and 5.89% moderate malnourished (MAM) upon arrival in Yida. According to Samaritan Purse (SP) this has increased to 6.87% SAM and 7.63% MAM as of 15 September 2012). This increases concerns that the humanitarian situation in Southern Kordofan is worsening. SP provides High Energy Biscuits for all children under five (new arrivals) and enrolls identified cases in the supplementary feeding program. MSF is conducting nutritional screening, immunizing against measles, and refers cases to SP. During the immunization process, cases (both adults & children) suspected of being in need of immediate medical attention are referred to the MSF clinic by their staff. SP has recently begun nutritional screening of pregnant and lactating women.

Food Distribution: The General Food Distribution began on 18 September and was completed on 22 September for approximately 59,400 individuals. In addition to the standard ration, mosquito nets and soap were provided to all households.

Shelter for New Arrivals: Following discussions with boma chiefs, UNHCR distributed plastic sheets in each boma for the construction of temporary shelters for new arrivals.

Child Protection: While the number of children and young adults staying at the UAM Compounds in Yida is decreasing, there is a continued need to ensure the security and wellbeing of the children. UNHCR and partners met with the group managers and caretakers during the reporting period to discuss all the concerns and solutions to resolve them. The need for regular bi-weekly meetings with managers/caretakers, daily tracking of UAM, clothing and recreational materials for children were discussed. About eight girls without any family links in the camp have agreed to be placed with foster families. The child protection-working group in Bentiu indicates that 58 refugee children have been identified living and engaging in child labor in Bentiu and Rubkona. This will be dealt with as a priority.

Vulnerability: UNHCR and NP conducted an assessment at the "disabled compound" located in the Western part of the camp where 22 shelters are currently being built for them by the Social Affairs council. UNHCR has planned to conduct individual interviews with all men in the group. A settlement-wide vulnerability assessment is ongoing. NP and volunteers from Social Affairs Council are completing the assessment in all Boma. Data and results from the assessment will be included into ProGress.

WASH: Intensive efforts continue by the WASH actors in the settlement to enhance hygiene awareness, water availability and distribution as well as sanitation facilities. An estimated 11 liters per person per day are available based on the registered



population although with forthcoming registration exercises, the actual population number is expected to reduce. Distribution needs to be improved in underserved areas of the settlement.

Camp Management: ACTED and UNHCR have started planning to set up an address system in Yida – this will contribute to ascertaining the static population of the settlement.

PARIANG and NYEEL

Registration: 54 new arrivals were registered in Nyeel (28 male and 26 females). These individuals were issued with a UNHCR token. A further 50 individuals registered by Intersos need to be verified by UNHCR. A further registration and verification mission will be carried in Nyeel out in the coming weeks to issue all refugees with IDs and ration cards.

Unaccompanied Minors: Of the recent new arrivals to Nyeel, there are 26 unaccompanied minors (UAMs) and separated children (9 girls and 17 boys). The children have said that they came to Nyeel for education and they have been enrolled in Nyeel Primary School. Two caretakers are currently looking after the UAMs, a number of the Separated Children have been reunified with relatives in the camp.

Livelihood The agricultural project in Nyeel is progressing well. Sorghum and kitchen gardens are being cultivated. Extra short-term sorghum that is still in stock is to be distributed this week.

Statistics

Upper Nile State: 106,551		Unity State: 65,688	
Batil	34,112	Nyeel	907
Doro	42,606	Pariang	1,223
Jamam	18,846	Yida	63,558
Gendrassa	10,987		

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