

Update on Emergency Response Operations in South Sudan Week Ending 07 October 2012

Highlights

- Continued tension in South Kordofan State leads to sustained refugee influx.
- Hepatitis E case surveillance continues in all camps; prevention activities ongoing to contain the disease.
- Local Authorities and UNHCR proactive in efforts to ease refugee and host community tensions in Maban County.
- Protection concerns in Yida enter third week; UNHCR remains concerned for the safety and rights of refugees.

Upper Nile State

Civilian Character of Camps: An action plan to maintain the civilian character of the camps is being finalized for discussion with local authorities in Maban. The plan includes active involvement of all concerned authorities and agencies to ensure that the camps are free from weapons and prevent GBV or recruitment of adults or children.

Flooding Assessment: Alongside Relief International and the Government of South Sudan, UNHCR conducted a joint assessment of flood-affected areas in the host community. A total of 70 households have been identified severely affected by the floods and additional services, including a seed distribution will be provided immediately.

Hepatitis E update: Hepatitis E has been declared in three camps since mid – September, while diagnostic results are pending for a suspected case in Doro camp. UNHCR and partners are conducting active case follow up and finding in an effort to curb the spread of the disease. To date, there have been a total of 791 acute jaundice syndrome cases reported and a total of 22 deaths in the refugee community. The average age of those infected is 25 years and nearly 60 percent of those infected are women. The incubation period for hepatitis E can range from two weeks to two month, or on average six weeks. Consequently, UNHCR is estimating that the outbreak may have reached its peak in Jamam and Gendrassa during the last week of August.

Cholera Vaccination Campaign: Preparations for the mass cholera vaccination, initiated by MSF with support from MOH, WHO and UNHCR, have already started. Discussions on vaccination strategies are ongoing and the campaign is expected to begin by the end of October.

Water, Hygiene and Sanitation: Community hygiene promotion and all WASH activities continue to improve access to potable water and improve sanitation conditions in all camps to curb hygiene-related diseases. WASH partners are distributing 500g of soap to each person in all camps and are disseminating key messages widely to ensure the continued use of latrines, use of chlorinated water and hand washing. Actors are focusing on cleaning up the camp and reducing stagnant water in an effort to prevent cases of malaria.

| Location | Water coverage | Latrine ratio |
|-------------|--|---------------|
| Jamam | 19 liters/person/day (LPD) | 1:24 |
| Yusuf Batil | 11 LPD (4 rigs continue to dig additional boreholes) | 1:24 |
| Gendrassa | 19.8 LPD | 1:28 |
| Doro | 17 LPD | 1:19 |

Host and Refugee Community Relations: During the reporting period, a UNHCR community services team conducted an assessment of the tensions between the refugee and host communities following the security incident reported last week. The team met repeatedly with leaders and communities from both sides and liaised with the Government of South Sudan's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission to identify causes of tensions and propose solutions. The temporary relocation of women and children from the local community invoked by the authorities as a precautionary measure, which ended after a few days and families have now been reunited. Community services staff also met with the community watch group in Yusuf Batil to explore ways of replicating a community-based protection group in Gendrassa and Jamam.

Gendrassa Relocation: The recent conflict in Gendrassa postponed the relocation operation from Jamam. As a result, only a total of 283 refugees moved to Gendrassa during the week. UNHCR organized a go-and-see visit and took the sheikhs to Gendrassa to assess by themselves the security situation before resuming the relocation movements. The truck fleet for relocation is starting to show signs of fatigue after intensive use and mechanical repairs are urgently needed. To date, a total of 12,573 refugees have been relocated from Jaman to Gendrassa.

Unity State

YIDA

Security and protection: In light of the ongoing weapons search and arbitrary detentions that compromises the civilian character of Yida settlement, UNHCR remains extremely concerned about the safety and security of the refugees. The ongoing exercise referred to earlier continued for the third week in a row throughout Yida, with abusive treatment and

detentions occurring in the process. UNHCR continues to closely monitor the situation in the community and at camp entry points, conducts interventions for the release of individuals detained and is advocating at all levels for the increased protection and safety of refugees in Yida and their right to seek safe asylum. Missions from BPRM and ECHO have visited Yida in the last two weeks to assess this serious situation.

Registration and screening of new arrivals: From 24-30 September, a total of 384 individuals were registered as new arrivals, which is a 50 percent decrease as compared to last week's total of 737. The decrease in arrivals could be due to lack of transportation and military operations preventing women, children and older persons remaining in South Kordofan from reaching South Sudan. Children constitute 72 percent of the population as compared to 42 percent last week, indicating that many children may be arriving in search of schooling in Yida at this time. In addition to the new arrivals, 105 newborns were registered during the reporting period. A total of 3,589 refugees were registered in the month of September, compared to 3,787 in August.

Decreasing numbers of refugees in Yida: While new refugees continue to arrive in Yida every day, the population figures are actually decreasing due to an on-going database clean up. During the reporting period, 1,287 individuals have been inactivated because they have either not shown up at the general food distribution in August and September or presented at the UNHCR registration center to replace old tokens. In addition, this thorough database cleanup is being conducted to ensure that all resources, including food, NFIs and other protection services are being directed toward the current population of concern. During the month of September, a total of 3,069 individuals have been deregistered. This process will continue to ensure proactive monitoring of the actual population size in Yida settlement.

Health: Health partners in Yida continue to report similar trends indicating a decline in patients accessing health services in the camp. The main illnesses reported from all clinics remains the same as last week, with a high prevalence of respiratory tract infections and malaria. Universal malaria testing indicated that 21 percent of the over-five population accesses services are positive for malaria. That said, there have been fewer cases of severe malaria. Partners continue to monitor for hepatitis E; two cases of acute jaundice syndrome were reported and blood samples have been sent to Nairobi for diagnostic confirmation.

WASH: Water and sanitation partners continue to increase access to potable water and sanitation services in all areas of the camp. Nine motorized boreholes are providing 10.3 LPD. Drilling of tenth borehole at Area-12 reached 50 meters and unfortunately collapsed. Additional polymer from Juba is scheduled to arrive during the reporting period and the drilling location was shifted 30m from current location.

PARIANG & NYEEL

Logistics: The final set of the long-awaited WASH items arrived by helicopter in Pariang in two rotations, including latrine linings, iron sheets and hygiene kits. Work to clean up the camp following flooding during the ongoing rainy season continues and construction of emergency latrines has begun.

Unaccompanied minors in Nyeel: 56 unaccompanied minors arrived during the reporting period and have been registered and protection partners continue to monitor their needs in the camp.



A refugee woman in Yida settlement sells fritters in the market. K. Mahoney/UNHCR

Statistics

| Upper Nile State: 108,877 | | Unity State: 65,688 | |
|---------------------------|--------|---------------------|--------|
| Batil | 35,715 | Nyeel | 963 |
| Doro | 43,316 | Pariang | 1,223 |
| Jamam | 17,026 | Yida | 63,502 |
| Gendrassa | 12,820 | | |

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