

## Update on Emergency Response Operations in South Sudan

Week Ending 23 December 2012

### Highlights

- **New arrivals to Jamam camp report aerial bombardments**
- **Uptick in shelter blazes in Yida prompts fire safety training**
- **Number of individuals from Aru County, DRC seeking safety significantly decreases**

### Upper Nile State

#### **New arrivals to Jamam camp report aerial bombardments**

In protection interviews with individuals who were evacuated from El Fuj during the previous week, UNHCR heard that refugees fled aerial bombardments in parts of Blue Nile State. Many stated that they had seen burned down or destroyed villages on the road to South Sudan. The presence of armed forces in areas along the road reportedly hampers their movement to the border. Apart from an unknown number of men who are attempting to flee with their cattle, the refugees said there were no other people on the road.

UNHCR provided jerry cans and buckets for water storage to the new arrivals who were transported last week from El Fuj to Jamam. There are currently 15,717 refugees living in Jamam camp who have access to 21 liters of water per person per day (lpd), which is above the international standards for refugees (20 lpd). This number has increased from a low of eight lpd in August thanks to intensive efforts by all actors in Jamam, including the set-up of a 14 km water pipeline by the ICRC, the replacement of the main borehole pump by UNHCR to double its yield and additional pumping and distribution systems by Oxfam. Drilling activities continue in Jamam with the aim to solve chronic water shortage previously faced by the local communities in Jamam.

### Unity State

#### **Uptick in shelter blazes in Yida prompts swift action from UNHCR**

With the onset of the dry season an increasing number of shelters have caught fire in Yida in recent weeks.

During the reporting period, several large shelters housing more than 60 unaccompanied girls aged seven to 18, burned down. UNHCR immediately made arrangement for 16 of the girls to move in with relatives in the camp. The refugee agency provided additional relief items for the families and ensured that the new living arrangements were suitable for the girls. In discussions with the families, UNHCR reiterated the importance for young girls to be living within the community as opposed to separate shelters to ensure their enhanced protection. The remaining girls have been provided housing with other unaccompanied girls who have caretakers to ensure their safety and wellbeing. UNHCR will continue to work closely with the girls to identify relatives or foster care families within the community as quickly as possible. Through active family reunion efforts, the number of unaccompanied girls had drastically reduced by mid-year. More unaccompanied children however arrived with the new wave of refugees in September and October this year. Additionally, 26 individuals from five households lost all of their belongings in separate house fires.

Protection staff determined that the fires are starting mainly because refugees are cooking inside shelters. UNHCR is providing relief items to those who lost their homes and is training refugees on fire prevention, how to safely extinguish fires using local materials such as sand. A series of sensitization sessions were conducted during the dry season last year but need to be renewed this year as the population in Yida has tripled with new arrivals in 2012.

## Central Equatoria State

### Number of individuals from Aru County seeking safety significantly decreases

Following an initial influx of some 4,000 individuals from Aru County in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) beginning 13 December, UNHCR has determined that less than one quarter remain and are in need of protection and assistance. Fewer than 1,000 people are currently seeking shelter in two community buildings in Rodobo Village located in Morobo County in Central Equatoria State.

During protection interviews conducted this week, new arrivals reported that many people have returned to the DRC to harvest, while others have found shelter with family members in nearby villages.



One of the structures where new arrivals from the DRC are being housed in Morobo County until a safe location further from the border is identified by the Government and UNHCR. UNHCR/S.Mirbaghe

UNHCR continues to provide lifesaving assistance to the group, one third of whom are under the age of five. New arrivals are receiving hot meals with early signs of malnutrition identified in only a small number of people.

UNHCR is procuring additional high-energy biscuits and other nutritional foods to mitigate the risk of malnutrition. Further, the refugee agency is transporting those in need of medical assistance to a local health unit as the Morobo County ambulance is broken.

Protection staff is still trying to collect information on the incidents that caused such a large group to flee so quickly. As UNHCR reported last week, new arrivals stated that tensions between government forces and armed rebels groups operating in the area have resulted in arrests and abuses sparking generalized fear among the population.

UNHCR will help the group relocate this week to a new site identified by the authorities at a safer distance of 16 miles from the DRC border.

### Statistics

Upper Nile State: 112,363		Unity State: 57,669	
Yusuf Batil	37,199	Nyeel	827
Doro	44,741	Pariang	763
Jamam	15,717	Yida	56,079
Gendrassa	14,706		

#### Partners:

ACROSS; ACTED; CARE; Danish Refugee Council (DRC); Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); 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’s Purse; Save the Children Fund; UNICEF; World Food Programme (WFP); World Health Organization (WHO); World Relief; World Vision International.