

Update on Emergency Response Operations in South Sudan

Week Ending 17 February 2013

Highlights

- **WASH activities enhanced to curb spread of Hepatitis E in Maban refugee camps**
- **UNHCR on track to open new site in Ajuong Thok mid-March**

Upper Nile State

WASH activities enhanced to curb spread of Hepatitis E in Maban refugee camps

An increase in cases of Hepatitis E in Maban County's four refugee camps has prompted the implementation of a universal WASH strategy that seeks to enhance sanitation, improve water availability and promote better hygiene practices.

Sanitation

The monitoring of usable latrines across the four camps is on going. In Yusuf Batil, 701 new latrines have been constructed. Similarly, UNHCR will support the decommissioning of 100 latrines in Batil. In Doro refugee camp 323 latrines are planned for construction in the JumJum and Ngassana communities which are the most affected by Hepatitis E. Additional latrine construction is on going in others areas of the camp. In Gendrassa refugee camp, 12 full latrines are being replaced while in Jamam a shortage in the supply of locally acquired building material is delaying the decommissioning and construction of latrines.

Gaps in the availability of latrines in schools in Batil and Doro have been reported and identified. During the school holidays, WASH actors plan to construct one toilet per 50 students as part of a plan to improve WASH facilities in educational facilities. Lack of funding, however, remains an impediment at this stage.

Water

Systematic monitoring and testing of emergency water distribution systems and water quality treated with free residual chlorine (FRC) at tap stands has been strengthened. FRC at tap stands will be increased to 0.8-1 mg/l.

Water supply has been reinforced in Ngassana, Belila and Jumjum refugee villages, the three areas in Doro refugee camp most affected by Hepatitis E. Oxfam is improving water coverage in the western part of Gendrassa camp while the southern part of Batil is facing water supply problems due to technical issues and vandalism of temporary pipes. Rehabilitation of the water pipelines has started.

Hygiene Promotion

Awareness campaigns on Hepatitis E transmission and hand washing are on going across the camps, however WASH actors have identified gaps in the maintenance of toilets and hand washing facilities, which is largely the responsibility of refugee communities.

Refugee communities are encouraged to follow key messages to curb the spread of the disease. Hygiene promoters are disseminating key messages during individual and household level group meetings, sheiks meetings and at food distribution points. Hygiene promotion is also conducted during vaccination campaigns. In addition, the camps undertake regular 'camp cleaning days' while jerry can cleaning campaigns with chlorinated water at all the tap stand level is on going.

Although significant efforts have been put in place to respond to the Hepatitis E outbreak, the management of hand washing facilities by refugee communities still poses a problem. WASH actors are constantly looking into new methods to ensure that messages to curb the spread of Hepatitis E are understood and implemented.

WASH relief items

Latrine cleaning and environmental kits have been distributed by UNHCR to WASH actors across Maban's refugee camps. Soap for hand washing has been distributed at the household level and each hand washing facility is supplied 250 grams of soap per week. Hand washing facilities have been set up and buckets have been distributed in Doro camps while 50 litre drums and 15 litre buckets have been installed in across Batil. Collapsible jerry cans have been replaced in Batil with one 10 litre collapsible jerry can per family. Similar activities are to be implemented in Doro, Gendrassa and Jamam.

Unity State

UNHCR on track to open new site in Ajuong Thok mid-March

As new refugees from Southern Kordofan state in Sudan pour unabated into Yida refugee settlement in Unity State, UNHCR continues preparations to open a new camp in Ajuong Thok in March.

During the week, UNHCR's camp management partner the Danish Refugee Council completed site clearance in the reception area, select household block areas and the UN and NGO compound. Further plot demarcation and mapping work has begun and will be finished in the coming days.

UNHCR and WASH partners conducted a water pumping test in Jamjang as well as a geophysical field survey WASH partners will also be servicing the borehole and generator for the host community in Jamjang to improve their access to potable water. Rub halls will arrive shortly for humanitarian agencies to begin stocking relief items on site.

Heavy machinery has arrived in Ajuong Thok so that UNOPS can complete work on the main road. In an effort to improve access into Yida—a site which is cut off during the six month long rainy season—UNHCR is pushing for assistance from UNOPS to repair the road between Pariang and Yida as a matter of priority.

UNHCR remains extremely concerned by the number of new arrivals that continue to arrive in Yida. With nearly 1,400 refugees registered this past week, the population continues to grow and exacerbate and already congested camp. At this rate, the settlement could see upwards of 120,000 people by June coinciding with the onset of the rainy season. UNHCR continues to engage the Government of South Sudan to increase its presence in Yida and it stands ready to support the government in helping to relocate new arrivals to Ajuong Thok. As the refugee leadership, after an initial period of supporting the move to the new site, is now expressing its unwillingness to relocate, UNHCR is working closely with refugees to explain the urgent need to decongest the camp and move further from a contested border.

Statistics

Upper Nile State: 112,981		Unity State: 68,605	
Yusuf Batil	37,229	Nyeel	897
Doro	44,722	Pariang	795
Jamam	16,086	Yida	66,913
Gendrassa	14,944		

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; 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.