



Update on South Sudan Operations

18 - 24 March 2013

Aftermath of Yida clashes



Laborers are working against the clock to ensure the new refugee site at Ajuong Thok in Unity State is ready for the first convoy on 30 March. [Credit: UNHCR/K.Mahoney]

and assist those in need. Staff have been conducting interviews with affected families to determine their immediate needs and help them get back to an ordinary way of life. Replacement relief items are being issued through refugee leaders.

Later this month UNHCR will open a new refugee camp in Ajuong Thok to ease over-crowding in Yida. The site is located some 90 km south-east of the contested border area. The Government of South Sudan has designated Ajuong Thok as a safe and secure area for habitation by refugees.

UNHCR staff continue to sensitize refugees on the rationale behind the opening of the new camp and the services they will have access to such as primary and secondary schooling, and land for farming.●

Contributor: K.Mahoney

Following the 16 March clashes between South Sudanese law enforcement officials and unknown armed elements in the north-eastern section of Yida settlement, local authorities reported that one police officer was killed along with one infant and one civilian while several others were injured .

That incident highlights UNHCR's repeated concerns about refugees residing close to a contested border in a highly militarized zone and the presence of armed elements, both of which severely compromises the civilian character of the settlement.

During the incident, some 1,000 refugees fled the only way they could: north towards Jau. This week, UNHCR transported those refugees back to Yida.

Many refugees returned to their homes find their belongings had been looted. They lost blankets, jerry cans, soap, food and other items. They found fellow refugees had converged in groups and created communal shelters, surrounding themselves with whatever belongings they were able to salvage, like wooden beds.

UNHCR has been working closely with the refugees in Yida to assess how they were affected by the incidents

2013 budget and earmarked contributions (in USD)

BUDGETS	219,045,253
CONTRIBUTIONS	
Common Humanitarian Fund	2,492,998
Denmark	1,828,223
ECHO ^{NEW!}	5,000,000
Germany	1,828,223
Japan	14,000,000
Luxembourg ^{NEW!}	649,350
Switzerland ^{NEW!}	1,060,000
UNAIDS	50,000
United Kingdom	4,425,682
USA	5,300,000
Total contributions	36,634,476

Special protection and investigation unit in Jonglei state

A Special Protection and Investigation Unit has been set up in Jonglei State under the chain of command of H.E. the Police Commissioner. This represents an important solution to the difficulties faced by stakeholders in dealing with gender-based violence and cases involving persons with special needs.

The SPIU is designated to handle matters related to women and child survivors of abuse and sexual violence as well as other categories of vulnerable people such as older persons, juveniles, and disabled persons.

The SPIU will receive, investigate and protect criminal cases dealing with vulnerable persons in Jonglei State via referral by the Jonglei Protection Cluster or the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare of Jonglei State. The Unit will be supported by SAJP, UNDP, UNPOL and UNHCR.

At all times, two SPIU officers will be deployed at Bor Hospital, two at the Police Headquarter in Bor and two will be assigned as active participants of the Jonglei Protection Cluster.

The SPIU premises in Bor Block 3 were constructed by SAJP and UNDP, with support from UNICEF for the water point and from UNHCR for the construction of the perimeter fencing and other physical protection items for the survivors who will be staying at the Unit.

22 officers (10 women ranging in rank from Corporal to Lieutenant, graduated from an intensive Professional Development Programme that was held from 11-22 March. Topics included the Penal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code, the Child Act, International Laws and



Police officers in training. In collaboration with partners and under the umbrella of the Jonglei Protection Cluster, UNHCR has been advocating for the creation of a Special Protection and Investigation Unit in Bor, Jonglei State. [Photo: UNHCR/M.Ferrante]

Treaties relevant to South Sudan, Victim/Survivor Centred Investigative Approach to Crime, Interagency Cooperation in Investigative Networking and Interviewing Techniques. Protection Cluster members joined forces to deliver the training, namely UNDP Law Enforcement and Rule of Law, UNMISS Human Rights and Women Protection, UNMISS Judicial Advisory, UNPOL, Ministry GCSW and UNHCR. UNHCR delivered the legal and social protection related lectures. ●

Acronyms

SAJP: Safe Access to Justice Programme; **SPIU:** Special Protection & Investigation Unit; **SSPS:** South Sudan Police Service; **UNPOL:** UN Police

Contributor: M.Ferrante



Photo: P.Rulashe

Hawa and Mohamed do not understand why they lost their first child and why their daughter, Rucia, was born with hydrocephalus. The young parents are keenly aware that the medical treatment required to help their only child could be very costly. [Photo: P.Rulashe]

Praying for a miracle in a refugee camp

Rucia's tiny fingers clutch at the air as she feels for her mother's hand. Hawa takes the child's hand automatically and carefully supports her head as she prepares to breast feed her.

Rucia has advanced hydrocephalus, an accumulation of fluid in the brain which makes the head enlarge and can lead to mental handicap.

"Sometimes I ask myself what I have done wrong or what I could have done better," says Hawa, stroking Rucia's hand.

"And I always tell her that we have done nothing wrong." Rucia's father, Mohamed, is quick to dissuade his wife from pursuing this line of thought. "We accept the baby God has given us. We only ask for medical treatment to ease her pain."

Continued: next page

Progress on prevention of statelessness

Processing of nationality certificate applications for “vulnerable” beneficiaries is ongoing in Western Bahr-el-Ghazal, Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal and Warrap states. UNHCR is assisting up to for 2,500 such persons to obtain certificates by paying most of the cost.

The beneficiaries have been selected among the returnees and receiving communities and comprise primarily single headed households with children of school going age. They are considered to be at risk of becoming stateless because of challenges proving their South Sudanese nationality due to their long stay outside of South Sudan or because they lack the means to pay for the certificates.

Meanwhile, training of officers of the Directorate of Nationality, Passports and Immigration (DNPI) were held in Aweil on 16 March and Kuajok on 18-19 March. In all 42 officers attended.



The training aims to build the capacity of the DNPI by improving officers’ knowledge of the nationality legislation of South Sudan and equipping them with skills to correctly implement the nationality legislation.

The training in Kuajok also targeted 12 staff of the Norwegian Refugee Council who will be involved in public awareness campaigns, advocacy and counseling of individuals on issues related to nationality documentation and prevention of statelessness.

Five training sessions have been in three states (Western Bahr-el-Ghazal, Northern, Bahr-el-Ghazal, and Warrap) this year. ●

Contributor: A.Laako



PHOTOS: UNHCR project to assist in obtaining nationality certificates. LEFT: school children with processed identification forms. ABOVE. UNHCR trained DNPI staff assist school children. CREDIT: UNHCR/Y.Widell

Rucia’s parents and 12 family members fled Blue Nile states on foot as aerial strikes and shelling encroached with growing frequency on the nearby town of Soda. Nearly a month later, they crossed the border into South Sudan at Elfoj and made their way to Jamam 70km inland.

Hawa was then aged 18 and pregnant. Her first pregnancy had culminated in a stillbirth in their home village, Fagula. The second child’s arrival was awaited with great excitement and anticipation.

Rucia was born 11 months ago in Jamam refugee camp. Mohamed says that soon afterwards they noticed her head was soft to the touch, like she had no bones and within a month it started to swell.

Alarmed by the abnormal swelling, they took the child to the health centre in Jamam refugee camp. They were told the kind of medical treatment their baby required was not available in the camp or in South Sudan for that matter.

With time Rucia’s head has grown larger, dwarfing her

tiny body. Her parents despair, praying for a miracle to end their child’s suffering. They explain that at night Rucia’s cries the most.

Mohamed regrets not being able to bounce his baby or take her around the camp as other fathers do.

She says she is torn between seeing to her baby’s needs and being the wife her husband expects her to be. Often she is too listless to prepare meals. She says she struggles to rouse herself from the helplessness she feels.

Hawa has learnt to interpret her daughter’s cries and gestures, and is always at the ready to respond and comfort her. “Sometimes Rucia holds onto my fingers with such strength,” she says, “as though she’s asking me not to leave her side, and I can’t. We will take whatever help we can get to give our daughter a chance for a better life.” ●

Contributor: P. Rulashe



UNHCR

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

The South Sudan Operation thanks you for your support in 2012



African Union



Australia



Brazil



Canada



CERF



CHF



Denmark



ECHO



France



Germany



Holy See



Italy



Japan



Republic of Korea



Luxembourg



Netherlands



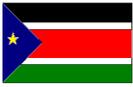
Poland



Qatar



Spain



South Sudan



Sweden



Switzerland

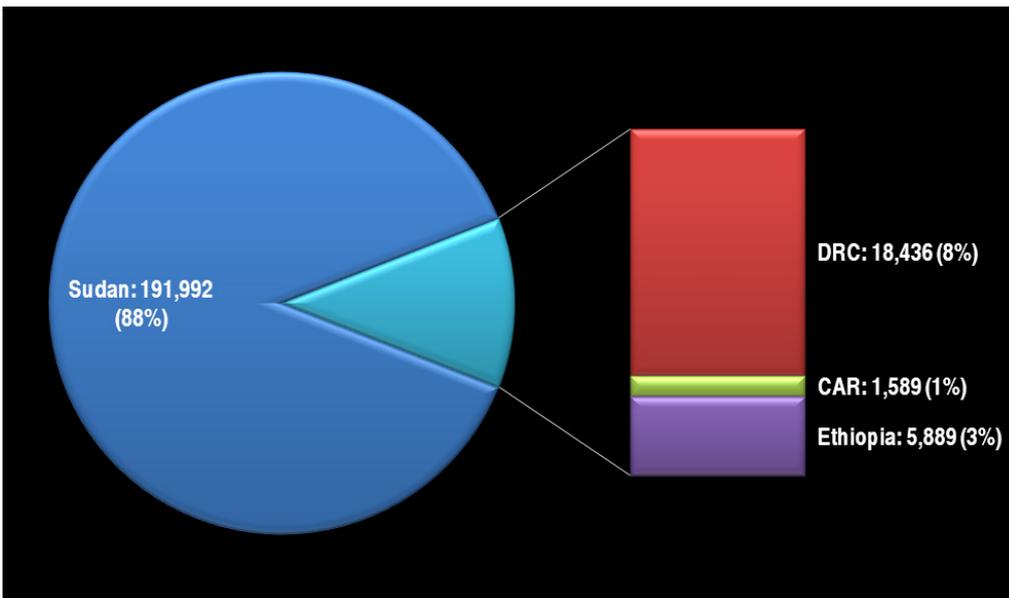


United Kingdom



USA

Refugees in South Sudan (by country of origin)



For more information, please contact:

Terry Ongaro, Senior External Relations Officer, +211 927 770 040, ongaro@unhcr.org

For media enquiries, please contact:

Tim Irwin, Public Information Officer, +211 928 067 600, irwint@unhcr.org

- In 2005, following the historic signing of the CPA, UNHCR embarked on facilitating the voluntary repatriation and reintegration of over 330,000 Sudanese refugees from the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda.

- UNHCR supports the Government to protect and assist refugees from the Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia and Sudan.

- The South Sudan Commission for Refugee Affairs (SSCRA), established by Presidential decree in February 2013, is UNHCR's government counterpart on refugee matters.

- UNHCR supports national bodies that engage protection and human rights related activities, and constitutional development, notably the Ministry of Legal Affairs, South Sudan Human Rights Commission and Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs.

- As Protection Cluster lead and co-lead of the Emergency Returns Sector, UNHCR continues to support South Sudanese citizens to return home from Sudan as well as to facilitate their reintegration through protection monitoring and targeted assistance.

- As Protection Cluster lead, UNHCR together with Cluster members collaborate with UNMISS on policy and practice issues related to humanitarian and protection of civilian planning and responses to conflict/disaster induced displacement, along with OCHA and other Clusters.