



Update on South Sudan Operations

25 - 31 March 2013

Sporadic new arrivals point to displacement in Blue Nile

The arrival of another 120 refugees in Maban County during the week bears out refugee claims that bombardment of SPLM-N controlled areas of Blue Nile State has caused civilians to scatter, and that it is during lulls in shelling that they are able to move in small groups.

At Old Guffa way station new arrivals are registered and given high energy biscuits and water before being transported to Doro refugee camp. There they engage with community members. They are also informed that Doro has reached full capacity and cannot accommodate more refugees. They are then transported to Jamam Transit Centre some 70kms away, where they are provided with shelter, food, NFI and basic services.

From 01 May, refugees will be relocated from Jamam to their new home in Kaya refugee camp. ●

Contributor: P.Rulashe

New refugee site Unity State

Adjong Thok refugee camp opened officially on 30 March with the arrival of 11 refugees from Yida. A representative of the South Sudan Refugee Commissioner was on hand to welcome them along with local authorities and UNHCR. The refugees are accommodated in the reception area while awaiting allocation of plots and shelter materials.

104 individuals had been pre-registered for the first convoy. However, some refugees reported to UNHCR strong resistance from community leaders and family members to their relocation. Convoys will assist refugees to move on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

On Wednesday, 51 refugees from Yida went on a go-and-see visit to Ajuong Thok. Local authorities from Jamjang Payam and the Pariang Commissioner welcomed them and expressed willingness to support peaceful coexistence between the host community and refugees.

Meanwhile, UNHCR together with Yida Refugee Council and the Pariang authorities have been providing information about Ajuong Thok and counselling those who are willing to relocate. Secondary education and support for livelihoods will be provided for refugees in Adjuong. ●

Contributor: L.Isla



New arrivals in Doro refugee camp. Since late February over 1,400 refugees have entered Maban county, mostly from the villages of Samari, Wadaga, Beldugu and Belila. [Photo: UNHCR/T.Irwin]

2013 budget and funding earmarked for South Sudan (in USD)

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

Protection training in Wau

UNHCR organised two days of protection training for Boma Chiefs and Boma Protection Network members in Wau, Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal. The training aimed to equip them with skills and tools to respond effectively to protection cases in their communities.

Concepts of protection and human rights, were explored through discussions on protection issues in various Bomas as well as means of resolving them. Case studies, group work and question-and-answer sessions were utilised to assist participants to understand the categories of persons with special protection needs, how to identify and respond to their individual needs as well as the role that each person has to play in protection in general.

Chiefs indicated that they had not known the meaning of human rights or protection nor recognized the significant role they played in protecting the rights of civilians. Protection network leaders evaluated their successes and challenges in identifying human rights abuses and facilitating the protection of populations in their areas of concern.

The second day focused on child protection, SGBV and referral mechanisms. Principles of do-no-harm, obtaining informed consent, maintaining confidentiality, non discrimination, know your limits as well as maintaining



Participants appreciated the opportunity to discuss relations between Boma chiefs and Protection Network members, especially in the areas of coordination and cooperation when dealing with individual protection cases. [Photo: J. Awino]

individual security when dealing with protection cases were discussed extensively. The participants were especially interested in concepts of confidentiality.

Participants requested that additional training and regular sensitisation sessions be held at Boma level with community members so that information would be passed directly to the community members by the facilitators rather than always coming from leaders. ●

Contributor: J.Awino

Praying for a miracle

During the week Baby Rucia was referred to Bunj Hospital in Maban County. After assessment by the surgeon, it was deemed that the child has severe hydrocephalus and needs urgent surgery. The surgeon is confident the operation will relieve the pressure on her brain. He has done similar operations at Bunj. Further procedure will be determined after the operation. The course of action has been explained to Rucia's parents.

Contributor: M.Maru



Photo: P.Rulashe

Police training in Yida

On Thursday, the *rakuba* (shed) belonging to the women's group in Yida hosted a full day training for 15 officers of the SSNPS (National Police) deployed to secure the small payam, now hosting close to 70,000 refugees from the Nuba Mountains.

The officers were introduced to refugee protection, basic human rights principles and other key

notions of international protection by the UNHCR protection team. They admitted they had limited knowledge of refugee rights and obligations in the country of asylum. Issues such as protection concerns of women and children, gender-based violence and code of conduct were unknown to them. The officers requested more support and training to enable them to better carry out their mandate and improve their knowledge about refugee protection.

70 members of community watch team who have been dealing with security matters in the absence of SSNPS received the same training last month. ●

Contributor: C.Mballa



The *rakuba* was looted during the recent security events in Yida. [Photo: C. Mballa]

Refugee voices at UNHCR annual planning meeting



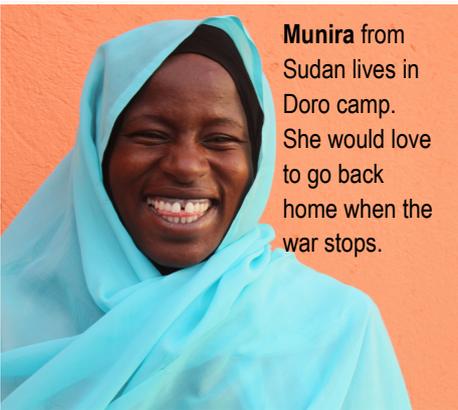
Marcelline from DRC is a widow who fled LRA attacks in 2009.



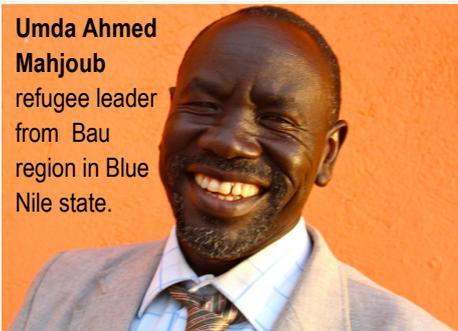
John host community leader in Yusuf Batil.



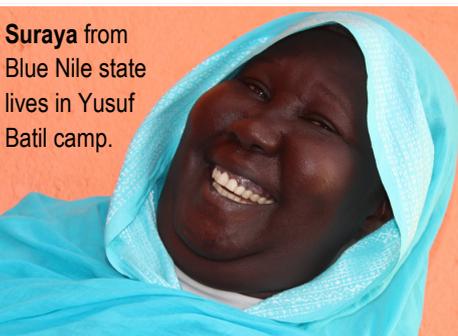
Thérèse from DRC (with son, Moïse) fled LRA attacks in 2007.



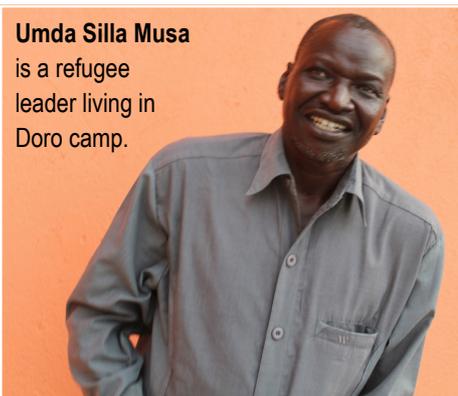
Munira from Sudan lives in Doro camp. She would love to go back home when the war stops.



Umda Ahmed Mahjoub refugee leader from Bau region in Blue Nile state.



Suraya from Blue Nile state lives in Yusuf Batil camp.



Umda Silla Musa is a refugee leader living in Doro camp.

On 26 March, UNHCR and partners in Government and among NGOs and members of the donor community met in Juba to discuss the agency’s vision and strategies for the years 2014/2015. They reflected on lessons from the past, particularly the refugee response in Unity and Upper Nile states.

UNHCR’s government counterparts, the Commissioner for Refugee Affairs (SSCRA), Hon. Bol John Akot, and the Chairperson of the Relief and Reintegration Commission (RRC), Mr. Peter Lam Bouth, were present. Also represented were the Department of Nationality, Passports & Immigration (DNPI), and the Commission for Human Rights.

UNHCR forecasts that numbers of refugees from Sudan will increase as the conflicts in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states continue. For refugees from the Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo and Ethiopia the forecast is for natural variation in population size (birth, death). Return of South Sudanese nationals from Sudan is expected to continue albeit at a much reduced pace. Within South Sudan, an increasingly stable situation is forecast with IDP numbers going down, although inter-communal skirmishes in places like Jonglei could cause limited displacement. Support to the DNPI aimed at preventing statelessness will continue.

The meeting was attended by refugees and community leaders from Juba (urban) and eight camps across the country, representing refugees from C.A.R., D.R. Congo, Ethiopia and Sudan. They were appreciative of the opportunity to convey pressing needs of their people, which they articulated unreservedly. They expressed gratitude to the Government of South Sudan for granting them safe asylum in the face of war in their countries of origin.

Refugees made impassioned pleas for education as a means to protect and empower children and youth, highlighting needs for qualified teachers, text books and uniforms. They lamented that young people with skills were idle, and needed opportunities to become productive and economically self-reliant. Women said that being illiterate themselves, they did not wish the same fate on their children and were not happy to see them (children) idle. They asked for training on women’s protection and gender-based violence as well as adult education, start-up funds for income generation activities, kitchen gardens, etc. A host-community representative noted that cutting of trees and grass by refugees caused tensions with the host community.

Responding to concerns raised by the group from Yida, the Refugee Commissioner reiterated that the South Sudan government has sole responsibility for assessing and designating secure sites for refugee settlements. Yida has the largest concentration of refugees in South Sudan, with a population of close to 70,000. ●

Contributor: T.Ongaro



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

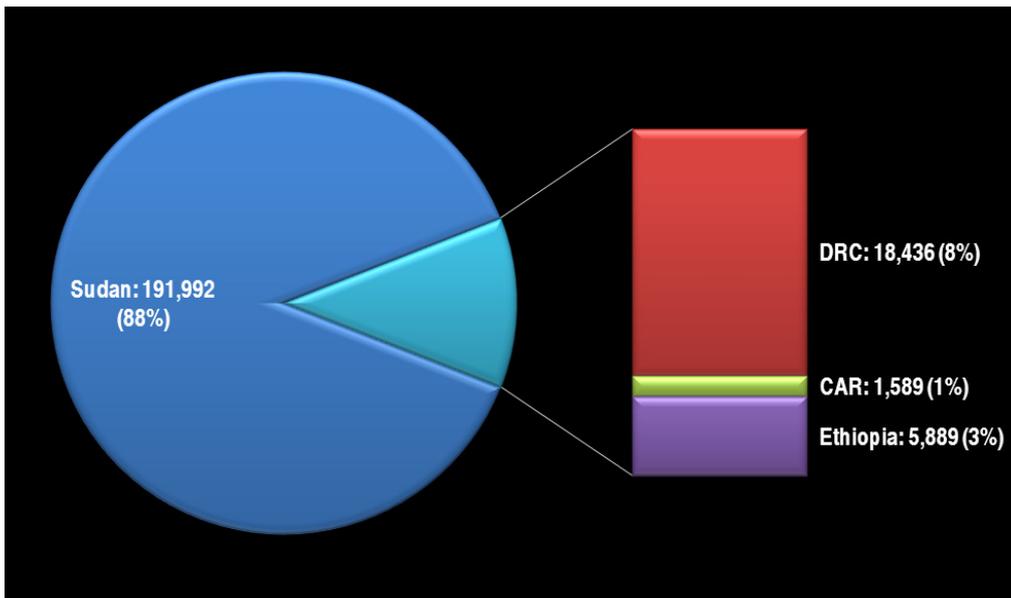


United Kingdom



USA

Refugees in South Sudan (by country of origin)



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- 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.