

REACH Camp Profile

Gendrassa Camp, Maban County, Upper Nile State

March 16, 2013

BACKGROUND

Due to wide scale flooding and limited potable water in Jamam camp, Gendrassa camp was established in July 2012 as an alternative location. Refugees were relocated from the worst flooded areas of Jamam to Gendrassa between July 2012 and October 2012. Some areas of the originally planned camp borders of Gendrassa have also been shown to be flood prone; because of this the full planned capacity of Gendrassa camp (20,000 people) was never reached. As of March, 2013 the population of Gendrassa camp is 15,815.

The majority of refugees living in Gendrassa camp are of the Ingessana tribe, who originated in northern Bau County, Blue Nile state, Sudan. The northernmost point in the Ingessana territory is approximately 200 kilometers from the border crossing point. Most of the refugees crossed at Al Fodj, which is an additional approximately 60 km from Jamam camp.

Gendrassa camp is located approximately 70km from Jamam and 3km from Yusif Batil Camp. Doro refugee camp is also located 20km from the camp, with Bunj town, the capital of Maban located between the two areas of the refugee camps. There are a number of small host community settlements that surround Gendrassa camp which together are known as Gendrassa village.

A map of the Maban County refugee camps is attached as Annex 1.

Demographics

Gendrassa is primarily comprised of three of the four total sub-tribes from the Ingessana: Kukur, Fadamia, and Bau and 2 other tribes, Jum Jum and Magaja, which are represented on a smaller scale in the camp. The leader of the Ingessana is called the Nassir, who accompanied his people to Maban County and lives in Gendrassa camp. The four sub-tribes of the Ingessana are led by Umdas and are further divided into smaller groups, led by a sheikh. The sheikhs represent a population of 50-200 households. Among other duties, the Sheikhs and Umdas represent the interests of his population to Camp Management and other camp actors. The village boundaries in Gendrassa camp, with few exceptions, match the boundaries of the sheikdom within the camp.

Gendrassa was originally planned with populations settled according to village and sub-tribe in blocks. During relocation,

ACTED teams pitched tents within the block designated for each group. Over time, many households have moved their tents, sometimes outside of the originally demarcated blocks and sometimes outside the camp boundary altogether. Those households outside the camp boundaries are often further from services, such as water and the distribution site.

Figure 1 Demographic Information – Gendrassa Camp

Total Population	15,815 individuals
Total Tents	3,650
Total Villages	31
Average Family Size	4.3
During registration, the following vulnerable households were identified:	
Households with disabled persons	271 (5.9%)
Households with elderly persons	208 (6.1%)
Unaccompanied minors	54 (1.6%)
Orphans	4 (0.1%)

Households with identified vulnerabilities face additional challenges. Efforts are underway to ensure that these household are able to access all needed services, including latrine and water points, transport their ration during the general food distribution (GFD), and receive any additional medical assistance as needed.

Local Government Relations

Tensions between NGOs and the local government continue over the large amount of construction materials required by NGO activities. In recent weeks, there has been evolving legal restrictions regarding obtaining wood poles, marram, and grass for Tukul and fence construction. The large need for construction material in Kaya has placed additional stress on the ongoing needs for construction materials in Gendrassa and other camps and has required establishing new protocol for obtaining these construction materials. The recent issues with receiving poles has caused delays in decommissioning full latrines and constructing new latrines in the camp. An agreement has been reached regarding tax payment on marram transport and poles, relieving these issues for the time being.

Recently, the Government of South Sudan passed the Refugee Act, which grants refugees the right to work. This will allow NGOs, who were previously required to hire either host community members or relocate other South Sudanese applicants as staff to begin putting refugees on contract..

Phase 3 Registration

The Gendrassa camp population has already undergone Phases 1 and 2 registrations. These processes collected basic demographic information about the population, family sizes, current address, address of origin, and vulnerabilities. Phase 3 will add fingerprints to the database to prevent double-registration of households. In addition, households will be re-interviewed and any changes or earlier errors in the database will be corrected. The exercise is anticipated to take place in Gendrassa camp in March and April.

Camp Capacity

During the relocation from Jamam to Gendrassa it was discovered that some planned areas of Gendrassa were flood-prone. Because it was not advisable to relocate refugees from one flood-prone area to another, the capacity of Gendrassa was decreased. Therefore some communities remain split between the camps. This is a continuing concern for those communities, who would like to be reunited. It is not clear, at the time, how that can be done while avoiding relocation to a flood-prone area.

An expansion of Gendrassa has been discussed, however these plans are on hold for the time being as attention has been turned to planning for the new Kaya site, which will house the remaining Jamam camp population and some of the Doro camp population to relieve overcrowding.

Refugee and Host Community Relations

Although no major incidents have been reported recently, tension between host and refugee communities remains a major concern due largely to competition for limited natural resources (for example water, firewood, and grazing land). Conflict is particularly likely during the dry season, as hafirs located near the camps begin to evaporate and livestock is left having to travel farther for water and grazing land.

Efforts to map grazing lands are ongoing. With accurate maps of both refugee and host community grazing land, it is hoped that potential areas of conflict can be identified and mitigated.

In the past, conflict has occurred over deforestation of Maban County and dwindling ready supplies of fire wood as both refugees and the host community search for energy sources. There is a collective of women making energy-efficient stoves in order to decrease firewood consumption, however currently few people have the disposable income to purchase the stoves.

Health

There is one Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) hospital, one International Medical Corps (IMC) Hospital, and two IMC

clinics in Gendrassa camp. The clinics and hospitals are dispersed throughout the camp so as to provide access for as many individuals as possible. The locations of medical facilities within the camps are attached as Annex 2.

The outbreak of Hepatitis E Virus (HEV) remains a major concern for all refugee camps in Maban County, including Gendrassa. Although the outbreak has recently been declining in other camps, the number of newly diagnosed cases continues to increase in Gendrassa camp. There were 89 new diagnosed cases in the second week of March, up from 50 average weekly new cases in the first six weeks of 2013. No cure or vaccine is available for HEV, prevention is the only option for decreasing the number of cases. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion (WASH) and Health actors in Maban County are working to increase hand washing points, monitoring the chlorine levels in potable water, and conducting sensitization campaigns to try to halt the outbreak.

One case of measles and one case of meningitis were diagnosed in Gendrassa camp in early March. Communities have been encouraged to bring children and adults with symptoms of either illness to the camp clinics as early as possible in the hopes of preventing any larger outbreak. A house to house polio vaccination campaign, initiated by the South Sudan Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization, will occur in Gendrassa camp between March 19 and March 22. The campaign will target all children under the age of five, which represents 21% of the population.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Promotion (WASH)

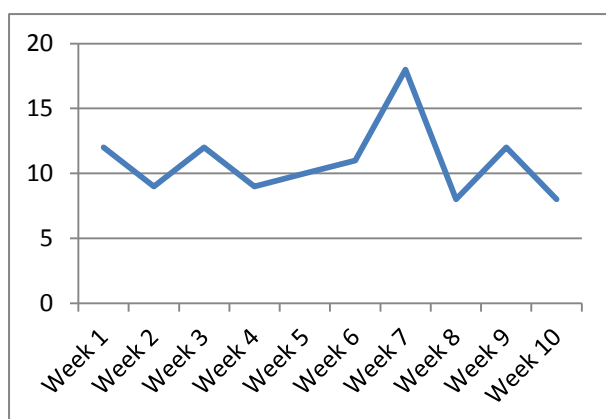
As of the first week of March, the average daily water provision per person was 36 liters per day. As this level is relatively plentiful, measures are being taken to ensure that children are not playing in available water. 98% of the camp population lives within 500m of a tap stand, in keeping with the SPHERE standard for sanitation. Water coverage is shown in the map attached as Annex 3. There are a total of 30 tap stands in the camp.

As of early March, there was one latrine for every 19 individuals. Feminine hygiene kits were distributed to 3,348 women and girls aged 14 to 45 during the first week of March. Over 16,299 bars of 600 grams of soap were distributed.

Currently, in Gendrassa ten donkey carts operate in the camp collecting solid waste from bins throughout the camp. The donkey cart then transports waste to a landfill nearby. Separately, three teams of four persons collect animal waste throughout the camp three days per week. An animal waste disposal site is being planned, currently teams burn carcasses in a designated location outside of the camp. As the below chart illustrates, since the beginning of 2013 the

number of animal carcasses burned per week were very low. Due to conflict with agriculturalists and host community pastoralists, refugee herders have taken their herds further from the camps. However, herders return to the camps multiple times per week to water their herds at the nearby hafirs, or water points.

Figure 3 Number of animals burnt in Gendrassa Camp per week beginning in 2013



Education

As of the fourth week of January, there were nine schools in Gendrassa camp with a total of 51 classrooms. The schools offer pre-school, primary school, and adult education. After classes, the schools become child friendly spaces with age-appropriate activities. The schools are currently out of session but will begin again in April. There are 1,272 students attending pre-school classes and 492 adults attending English language courses. All teachers are selected from the refugee community and receive training pedagogy, child protection, and other relevant subjects by the Ministry of Education and NGO partners.

Twenty eight students from Gendrassa camp completed the South Sudan Primary 8 National Exams in February. Before testing, classes were offered in English primary one and primary two and in Arabic for Primary three through eight. The curriculum is established by the Government of South Sudan. This is the standardized exam for all primary school students in South Sudan to pass from primary to secondary school.

In addition, a vocational training center (VTC) has recently begun operation in Gendrassa. Participating students will be trained in either tailoring, metal working, carpentry, or construction. They will also be given training in establishing their business once trained.

Food Distribution

Food rations in Gendrassa camp are distributed monthly from

a central distribution point. The food distribution point was located to be as accessible as possible to the camp as it was at the time of constructions. However, with one centralized distribution point, tents located at the boundaries of the camp are still some distance away. Currently, 3,395 of 3,518 total tents mapped or 96.5% are located within 2 km of the distribution site. The remaining 123 (3.5%) tents are located from 2-2.5 km from the distribution site. A map of the distribution distances is attached as Annex 4.

The per person ration of food for a month is 16.67 kg of sorghum, 1.5 kg of lentils, .17 kg salt, and 1.17 liters of oil. For an average family size of 4 persons, this means transporting 66.68 kg sorghum, 6 kg lentils, .68 kg salt, and 4.68 liters oil. Although it is likely that a larger family size will have more family members to assist in transporting the food ration, if there are small children or a spouse unable or unwilling to help, transporting over 70 kg of food for a family of four up to 3 km can be quite difficult. Donkey cart transportation services are available from private enterprises, however the payment is generally a portion of the sorghum ration. Efforts are being made to provide the particularly vulnerable households (those without able-bodied adults to transport food) with a free donkey cart or tractor service.

REACH

REACH was formed in 2010 as a joint initiative of two INGOs (ACTED and IMPACT Initiatives) and a UN program (UNOSAT). The purpose of REACH is to promote and facilitate the development of information products that enhance the humanitarian community's capacity to make decisions and plan in emergency, reconstruction and development contexts.

At country level, REACH teams are deployed to countries experiencing emergencies or at-risk-of-crisis in order to facilitate interagency collection, organisation and dissemination of key humanitarian related information. Country-level deployments are conducted within the framework of partnerships with individual actors as well as aid coordination bodies, including UN agencies, clusters, inter-cluster initiatives, and other interagency initiatives.

Annex 1: Map of Maban County Maps

