



# UNHCR South Sudan

## Situation Report

### New developments

- UNHCR Representative will accompany the Humanitarian Coordinator on a reconnaissance visit to Unity State on 8 January, including stops in Bentiu, Yida and Pariang, to lay the groundwork for future UNMISS troop deployment and return of UNHCR and NGO staff.
- Peace talks initiated in Addis Ababa on 3 January under the auspices of IGAD appear to be making slow progress, as fighting continues to provoke displacement of civilians with seven out of ten states affected, including through refugee flows into neighboring countries.
- The strategic town of Bor, situated on the main river and road routes connecting Juba to the north (Jonglei, Upper Nile, Ethiopia, Sudan), is still under control of anti-government forces.
- The governments Sudan and South Sudan announced yesterday plans to collaborate on protection of oil fields, including possible deployment of their respective forces.

### Security

#### General

- Sporadic skirmishes continue to erupt between rival factions in military settings. The countrywide 6pm to 6am curfew is still in force.

#### Juba

- There is heavy presence of military, especially after dusk. Criminality is on the upswing.
- The government is expressing doubts about sincerity of IDPs staying in and around UNMISS compounds, alleging they could be involved in illicit activities.
- The UN is updating contingency plans on relocation of staff in the event that Juba becomes ungovernable.

#### Unity State

- UNHCR, UNDSS and UNHAS undertook a security assessment mission to Yida on 3 January.

Most of Unity State is currently held by anti-government troops. Pariang County, where the refugee settlements hosting refugees from the Nuba Mountains of Yida and Ajuong Thok are located, is under government control.

- The situation was calm despite heavy military presence. The Deputy Governor of Unity State, who retreated to Pariang in the wake of the takeover of Bentiu, gave the green light for humanitarian operations to continue. He acknowledged SPLA soldiers had looted vehicles, and gave assurances that the assets would be returned. A looted truck has since been returned to a UNHCR partner NGO. The government is being engaged to ensure there is no more looting.
- In Ajuong Thok, looted items include food from the WFP warehouse, i.e. 50 bags of sorghum, two bags of yellow peas and one carton of cooking oil.

#### Upper Nile State

- No confirmed or credible information was available on the evolution of the armed confrontations between governmental forces and anti-governmental forces in Adar area (Malakal).
- The situation in Bunj/Maban remains calm, although persisting rumors are feeding tensions. The County Commissioner today confirmed that Maban community leaders want to preserve the area from violence. UNHCR and humanitarian community at large are not under direct threat by the warring parties.
- Nonetheless, presence limited to critical staff remains relevant until the political and tactical situations are less confused, amid concerns for the situation in Malakal and the possible evolution of events elsewhere in Upper Nile.

### Refugee operations

#### Unity State

- UNHCR has three national staff in Yida, and will beef up its presence in Unity State subject to UNDSS approval. UNHAS is not cleared to fly to Yida. A number of NGOs have indicated plans to

charter flights this week to strengthen their presence.

- 437 new arrivals were registered in Yida between 23 December and 3 January, mostly women and children fleeing bombardment. Yida-Jau road is open though there are fears anti-government fighters could move to Pariang.
- The AAHI ambulance is transporting injured individuals from Ajuong Thok to Yida. Health services are operating through staff are overwhelmed by the 80-100 visits per day. In the MSF hospital, due to the assault on Angolo and Tess in South Kordofan, 12 individuals have been admitted with injuries. 20 referrals were flown out of Juba this week on military planes.
- There are no functioning markets in Ajuong Thok, thus staff have been advised to drive to Yida market to buy food as there are no immediate plans to send charters with food and other items.

#### *Upper Nile State*

- Essential operations continue in all four refugee camps with significantly reduced workforce. UNHCR is recommending that the return of partners should be limited to critical staff, with a focus on medical support and water technical support.
- UNHCR communicates with refugees and monitors the situation on a daily basis with particular focus protection, camp management and WASH trouble-shooting, including deployment of UNHCR Generator Technician to camp on daily basis to ensure servicing of water system genset and surveillance.
- UNHCR discussed ongoing forced recruitment of youth from refugee the camps with SPLA/N political wing representative and county commissioner, who promised to discuss the matter with SPLA/N military commanders.
- January soap distribution was completed today, covering all four refugee camps with reduced ration (250 grs instead of 500 grs).
- Essential operations in the two IMC main clinics in Kaya and Batil camp resumed today, releasing the pressure on MSF-Holland health facilities; MSF had taken on a lot of the workload related to health and nutrition. Vaccines have been dispatched to health partners in Maban.
- UNHCR has maintained telephone contact with Sudanese refugees in Lelo and Kodok, who fled from the Nuba Mountains. Refugees reported that they were safe; their locations were not affected by fighting. Major UNHCR concerns regarding this population are (a) insecurity in Malakal,

which cuts off access to them; UNMISS flights to Kodok were discontinued until further notice (b) the refugees have run out of the 14-day food ration (c) the medical situation of refugees may require attention.

#### **IDP response**

- UNHCR is participating in the IDP response through the inter-agency collaborative approach under the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator.

#### *Juba*

- UNHCR has deployed an expert to co-lead the Camp Coordination and Camp Management cluster along with IOM and ACTED, to oversee the management of humanitarian interventions (eg. health, WASH, NFI, emergency shelter) in IDP concentration areas in order to avoid gaps and or overlaps in assistance provided to people who have been displaced in the current conflict.
- UNHCR has deployed an expert to support the Shelter cluster that is co-led by IOM and World Vision. She provides technical support and recommendations for strategy development, shelter responses, and site planning with regard to densely congested sites as well as establishment of new sites to decongest the latter.
- UNHCR provided relief items to 465 IDPs in a church compound and at its way station in Juba. The blankets, sleeping mats, mosquito nets, kitchen sets and soap were distributed by NGO partners ACROSS and AHA.

#### *Upper Nile State*

- In Malakal, UNHCR and OCHA will assist the government's Reintegration & Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) to map out areas affected by recent fighting, and identify affected families (houses and shops burned/looted). UNHCR will provide technical support in terms of registration to facilitate food and non-food assistance. A UNHCR site planner will be deployed to Malakal to carry out site planning and camp lay out.

#### *Unity State*

- UNHCR has received unconfirmed reports of displaced South Sudanese civilians seeking shelter and assistance in Yida.

**For more information,  
please contact:**

Teresa Ongaro  
Senior External Relations Officer  
UNHCR Juba, South Sudan  
[ongaro@unhcr.org](mailto:ongaro@unhcr.org)

