



UNHCR South Sudan

Situation Report

Developments

- **Over 500,000 displaced since 15 December**

OCHA is reporting an estimated 468,000 people have been displaced within South Sudan since 15 December, including 66,900 sheltering in UN bases with the largest concentrations of people in Juba and Malakal. Another 83,900 people have crossed into neighboring countries.

- **Upper Nile state**

Malakal: The security situation in the state capital remained tense and unpredictable. Despite contradictory declarations from warring parties, it is confirmed that the town is under control of anti-government forces. According to unverified reports key authorities escaped by boat.

A UNDSS security assessment of UN agency offices and warehouses was aborted just before reaching the airport, owing to uncontrolled White Army presence. More dead bodies were observed along the road. Some looked fresh compared to those observed the day before, including people in civilian clothes.

There were unconfirmed reports of ethnic related killings of civilians, looting, burning of property and rapes in Malakal. At the PoC area, civilians who tried to access the river to collect water ran back and reported that the White Army was preventing people who did not belong to a certain ethnic group from fetching water and threatening to kill them.

Maban County: Uncertainty in Malakal is fuelling rumours and raising tensions, including among humanitarians. The telephone network is operating again, which reassures populations but facilitates the spread of rumours. Although there is no mass movement, some women and children left Bunj towards the east with basic baggage, saying they were frightened by the situation.

In separate development, some wounded SPLA-N soldiers (exact number unknown) have been transported to Bunj hospital after alleged bombardments in Guffa area, Blue Nile, Sudan.

Refugee operations

Upper Nile State

Essential operations continue in all four camps in Maban County with a focus on water distribution, primary and secondary health care, protection monitoring and contacts with refugee communities.

UNHCR carried out biometric verification of new arrivals in Kaya refugee camp. 54 individuals (21 households consisting of mostly women and children) were verified and issued tokens. No case of recycling was detected.

In the prevailing perilous circumstances, return of partners should focus until further notice on maintaining critical medical, WASH, camp management and technical support services. Staff are anticipating the possibility of a protracted deterioration of the situation and arranging quick delivery of critical supplies (fuel, food, PPEs, etc.)

- **Unity State**

New arrivals in Yida report heavy bombardment and ground attacks by the SAF between 6 and 7 January in Angolo, Toroji and Jau areas. Heavy bombardment was also reported in western Kadugli.

There are serious concerns about the presence of armed elements in Yida, and the reported recruitment of children, especially around the market, to join fighting forces.

Armed elements are implicated in sexual exploitation of refugees. They reportedly looted merchandise from Bentiu and are using money to lure women and girls. Refugees have reported cases of sexual violence by armed elements to South Sudan National Police (SSNP).

NGO protection activities are continuing albeit on a reduced scale, covering protection monitoring and child protection. The latter are working with child protection committees, youth clubs and monitoring activities in child friendly spaces. Monitoring outcomes highlight mainly cases of burnt houses and requests for assistance. Refugee and host community relations are very good, with no incidents reported.

In Yida, GFD started on 16 January following an impasse whereby loaders demanded increased incentive payments). 11,472 individuals (1,905 households) were reached on the first day.

Yida and Ajuong Thok have GFD supplies to last until March 2014. BSFP cannot be carried out as CSB+ and CSB++ supplies are out of stock.

A number of refugees were caught up in the crisis in Bentiu. Some managed to return to Yida while others reportedly took refuge in the UNMISS PoC Area.

Internal displacement

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

- **Non-food items**

Juba: UNHCR is transporting relief items to warehouses in IDP affected areas to facilitate speedy release to needy populations. This will create space for incoming cargo and prevent a glut in the Juba warehouse as pre-positioning of NFI for refugee operations countrywide prior to the seasonal rains is scheduled to start soon.

Malakal: The airlift of NFIs to Malakal for 10,000 IDPs is planned, as soon as security conditions permit. UNMISS has undertaken to provide storage for the items once they arrive.

Bentiu: UNHCR released plastic sheets and kitchen sets (2,500 each) as well as blankets and mosquito nets (5,000 each) to IOM to support the IDP response in Bentiu. These items will benefit 2,500 households.

- **UNHCR staff deployments**

UNHCR is assuming State coordination of the CCCM cluster in Lakes, Unity and Upper Nile States, overseeing delivery of assistance to IDPs in camp-like situations and collective centres (schools, churches and other public communal facilities).

UNHCR is despatching staff who were evacuated from Bor to Nimule to monitor the situation and support IDP response efforts. Agencies have reported significant numbers of displaced persons taking refuge in Eastern Equatoria, which has remained unaffected by the violence experienced elsewhere in the country.

- **Upper Nile State**

In Malakal an estimated 2,000 individuals entered the UNMISS PoC Area with a lot of luggage. Some of them settled in new areas of the PoC Area, indicating they could be new arrivals.

UNHCR convened the first Protection cluster meeting to brainstorm on measures to mitigate possible security risks at the POC area. The most likely risk identified, based on the recent happenings, is the physical safety of IDPs during shoot-outs. It is instructive that IDPs sustained numerous injuries presumably because of moving around the camp during the shoot-out. It was thus agreed to urgently sensitize the community to take mitigation measures to limit injuries by lying on the ground and minimising movement in such cases.

Another protection concern noted is the difficulty in persons with special needs accessing services, especially water. It was agreed to urgently identify the PSNs and approach the relevant Clusters services to establish ways to prioritise this group of people or otherwise put in place measures to ensure that they are able to access services.

The protection cluster agreed to set up public address systems to broadcast these messages and other key information to IDPs. It was further agreed to convene meetings with community leaders on regular basis; the first will take place on 18 January.

- **Unity State**

UNHCR paid a courtesy on the Pariang County Commissioner who expressed concern over the IDP situation, asserting that there are about 51,000 IDPs in the County in need of support. He reiterated his previous assurances that the local authorities will provide necessary support to retrieve UNHCR assets which were confiscated during the crisis.

South Sudan National Police report that civilians have fled from eight out of the nine *Payams* in Pariang County. Most homes were burnt down and a number of host community have taken refuge in Yida. The Police confirmed that there are no concentrations of IDPs in any specific areas but most displaced people are living with relatives.

In Panyang County there is no water as the only borehole was destroyed by anti-government forces. Local authorities have been trucking water intermittently. As a result most people have relocated to communities near Yida or are renting accommodation within the refugee camp.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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FOR REFUGEE INFORMATION ON THE SOUTH SUDAN SITUATION, VISIT
<http://data.unhcr.org/SouthSudan/regional.php>

