

## SOUTH SUDAN

### UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE NO.44

24 to 31 October 2014

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- The South Sudan government declared on 29 October that it had regained control of the Bentiu and Rubkona oil hubs following the simultaneous rebel assault on the towns two days earlier. The international community and the IGAD Special Envoys to the South Sudan Negotiations condemned the ongoing fighting between the two warring parties. Diplomats and analysts say there could be a surge in fighting as the dry season approaches.
- Despite media reports citing President Kiir to have ordered the withdrawal of the government negotiating team from the peace talk in protest of rebel attacks on the oil-rich town of Bentiu, the peace talks are underway. IGAD has convened a Heads of State summit scheduled on 06 November during which President Salva Kiir and rebel leader Riek Machar are expected to reach what is hoped will be a final deal.
- Results of the September IPC analysis indicates that despite the current improvements in food security, the situation is worse compared to a typical year at harvest time. Some 1.5 million people will remain in Crisis and Emergency phases through December 2014, including one third of the population of Greater Upper Nile whose coping mechanisms have been stretched due by the protracted conflict and displacement. The overall nutrition situation remains dire with the prevalence of the global acute malnutrition (GAM) likely to remain above emergency thresholds.

#### Populations of concern

A total of **1,680,924 people of concern** as of 07/11/2014

**244,638**

Registered refugees in South Sudan as of 30/09/2014

**473,271**

South Sudanese refugees who fled to neighboring countries since December 2013

**1,438,695**

Total number of IDPs in 173 locations (OCHA update of 12/10/2014).

**100,298**

IDPs living in 9 PoC sites OCHA update of 12/10/2014).

**1,252,356**

IDPs living outside of UN Bases

**143,335**

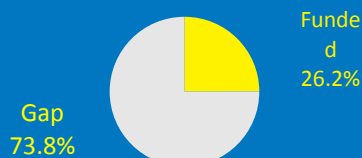
Total host community caseload in 19 locations.

**203,240**

Total number of crisis-displaced persons who have returned in 25 locations.

**424,282,355 USD**

Requested for the operation



Refugees assisted by UNHCR  242,299

IDPs since 15 December  1,438,695

## OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

- The situation in Unity State deteriorated considerably on Monday 27th October when clashes resumed between the SPLA and SPLA-IO in the areas around Bentiu, Rubkona airstrip and Bentiu Oil Filed. The clashes spread close to the UNMISS base where there are an estimated 47,214 displaced. There were unconfirmed reports of IDPs wounded by stray bullets at the PoC sites. Few shells were also reported to have landed in the vicinity of the PoCs and one inside PoC 4 that that did not cause injuries. Furthermore, on 29 October Bentiu town was allegedly under SPLA-IO control, however by the following day UNMISS confirmed that the Government of South Sudan was in control Bentiu and Rubkona airstrip.
- The Jamjang – Pariang road opened after several weeks of delays and rehabilitation work is in progress. This will speed up the delivery of services and material assistance to nearly 85,000 Sudanese refugees in Ajuong Thok and Yida.



Photo courtesy of UNOPS

- The security situation in Upper Nile has been tense during the reporting period. Reports of skirmishes between SPLA-IO and SPLA in Doleib Hills caused panic in the nearby Malakal town. Fear of the fighting led populations to move from the town to the UNMISS base, amid continued insecurity in the site where a female from Warrior Guard Security was assaulted between PoC 1 and 2, leading

to a clash between a community leader and guards at the gate.

- Melut County, located about 150 km northeast of Malakal, is said to be calm but unpredictable with reports of SPLA-IO planning to attack Kaka. An eye witness who recently left Kaka reported that the SPLA has requested all civilians to leave the town in order to avoid being caught up in the looming fighting. The civilians are said to be moving towards Mabek and Tokwaich. Reports of possible mobilization of white army in Longochuk and Maiwut are also causing anxiety among the displaced in the PoC areas. Meanwhile in the far north of the State towards the border with Sudan, intermittent skirmishes were reported in parts of Renk County. However, humanitarian intervention remained permissible in the area despite security challenges.
- In central South Sudan, the security situation in Lakes State has been progressively deteriorating and remains unpredictable. Throughout the month of October, at least 95 people have been killed in a series of intertribal fighting. Revenge attacks left 20 people dead and 5 children were reportedly drowned, while 70 people were killed due the fighting between SPLA soldiers and Pakam youth of Rumbek North.



## Achievements and Impact

### Refugees

- In Unity State the number of refugees who arrived during the reporting week increased significantly after the resumption of full scale registration for the October food distribution. However the number of new arrivals still remains low as the roads connecting Nuba and Yida remain cut. The majority of new arrivals (64%) continue to be males aged 12 years and above, with a few of them moving from Yida to Ajuong Thok by their own means. Meanwhile, a Child Friendly Space for children with special needs and disabilities opened in Ajuong Thok camp.
- In Central Equatoria, 16,288 refugees (7,805 in Lasu settlement, 2,098 in Yei urban area and 6,385 in host communities) have been registered in Morobo County. Another 15,198 returnees have also been registered in Kajokeji County after they fled from northern Uganda due to communal violence related to the border dispute between South Sudan and Uganda. During the week, the UNHCR Yei team went on a mission to Kajokeji to conduct protection monitoring and facilitate food distribution to the returnees. The food is provided by WFP and the team will be responsible for mobilizing local resources and distribution.
- In Yei, the Age, Gender and Diversity Mainstreaming (AGDM) exercise was conducted in Lasu settlement involving UNHCR and her partners, including the Commission for Refugee Affairs. Questionnaires were designed, training of enumerators conducted and the process undertaken in the settlement. The report is being finalized.
- In Maban, the population of camps covered by Sub-Office Bunj as of 30 October 2014 stands at 128,971 individuals: 49,676 in Doro, 17,667 in Gendressa, 39,990 in Batil and 21,638 in Kaya.

During the week, 43 women (24 from the committee and 19 care givers) from Gendressa participated in a refresher training on child rights, child protection and foster care. The training was facilitated by LWF with support from UNHCR.

- 72 children at risk from Doro, Gendressa and Kaya were screened and supported to receive food as their parents were either sick or not at home during the last general food distribution. LWF and SCI children will facilitate follow up and monitoring of these children.
- UNHCR started the registration of Kodok refugees which is expected to last for three to four days.

### IDPs

- UNHCR successfully completed the IDPs biometric registration in Nimule, Eastern Equatoria State on 28 October 2014. A total of 5,144 individuals, of whom 4,660 in Melijo and 484 in Nimule, were registered during the seven-day exercise. The registration shows that 85 percent of the IDPs were displaced from Bor and Twich East Counties of Jonglei State, 58 percent are women while over 70 percent are children and two percent elderly. There are also 573 unaccompanied and separated children who are mainly being cared for by extended family members and in touch with their parents. The Nimule exercises marks the first time UNHCR ever undertook biometric registration for IDPs and similar exercises are planned for other locations in South Sudan. According to OCHA 1,438,695 people have been internally displaced since the outbreak of conflict in December 2013 with only 203,240 who managed to return to their homes.
- In Bor, 2,708 IDPs were relocated from the old to the new PoC site.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps/Challenges

- In Upper Nile's Melut County, an assessment mission to Jalhak was suspended due to the presence of SPLA-IO in control of the nearby locality of Thor-Gwang. There are also growing concerns for the safety of humanitarian workers during distributions in Melut County with unregistered IDPs demanding to receive food and non-food items planned for registered IDPs.

- Following an earlier needs assessment, UNHCR and DRC distributed soaps, sleeping mats and blankets to 269 IDPs at the school in Paloch.



## Education

### Achievements and Impact

- Nineteen out of twenty newly recruited male teachers arrived in Maban from Ajuong Thok on 27 and 28 October. Five will teach at the Gentil Secondary School while the other fifteen are being deployed to the primary schools in Gendressa, Batil and Kaya camps.
- A total of 144 students (134 boys and 10 girls) in senior one have been enrolled in Gentil Secondary School since September 2014, including 46 from the host community. The school also conducted a second round of entrance exams for 139 students on October 28th, 2014. 69 of the students (63 boys and 6 girls) were tested based on the English language curriculum while the 70 others (55 boys and 15 girls) took the exam in Arabic.



## Health

### Achievements and Impact

- MSF-H informed UNHCR of its decision to extend their operation in Gentil Hospital, thereby maintaining their presence there until the end of 2015. This will enable IMC and Medair to focus on the primary health care services and strengthen their outreach and surveillance activities in Kaya and Batil camps.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps/Challenges

- During a meeting on 30 October with UNHCR, MSF-Spain explained that they discontinued their mobile clinic services in Paloch, Upper Nile, due to competing priorities and the uneconomical cost of serving a small population. Since the withdrawal of MSF-Spain from the area several months ago, no health partner has been providing services to the 471 IDPs in the Paloch Basic School.



## Food Security and Nutrition

### Achievements and Impact

- Distribution of seedlings to all blocks in Ajuong Thok is ongoing while an instructor arrived in the area on 23 October from Juba to train 300 men and women from both refugee and host community on how to build fuel efficient stoves, using mud. The training started on the 24<sup>th</sup> of October and will last for 20 days.
- In Western Equatoria, WVI distributed 63.4897 Mt of assorted commodities released by WFP to 6,659 refugees at Makpandu and Napere settlements. Refugees in Makpandu received cereals and pulses but not salt and vegetables. In Napere items distributed were pulses, vegetable oil and salt but no cereals. WFP explained that it is unable to deliver full rations due to the poor road conditions. Meanwhile, available food rations in Yei have been trucked to Lasu in preparation of the upcoming general food distribution in the settlement.



## Water and Sanitation

### Achievements and Impact

- The average daily amount of water supplied in the four camps of Maban currently stands at 19.1 liters per refugees. Water production and supply is also satisfactory in Unity camps despite fluctuations. In Yida, the level of daily consumption increased to 12.54 litres per refugee, up from 11 liters the week before. Meanwhile in Ajuong-Thok an average of 301 M3 of water is being produced daily out of which four percent are consumed by agencies and three percent lost.

- In Maban, the average Crude latrine coverage remains one for every 16 refugees in three out of four camps: 1:15 in Doro, 1:17 in Gendressa, 1:15 in Batil and 1:22 in Kaya.



## Shelter and NFIs

### Achievements and Impact

#### Refugees

- In Ajuong Thok, 17 unaccompanied and separated children identified last week were provided with sandals, clothes and sleeping mats and one case referred to the Danish Refugee Council for shelter assistance.
- In Yida, 1032 transitional shelter have been completed to date.
- In Gendrassa 755 out of 864 shelters have been built. Meanwhile in Doro, works to ease overcrowding in the sections of Soda, Chali, Rigarik and Gabanite 1 & 2 are progressing. The Danish Refugee Council shelter team is mapping out plots that will allow for proper WASH interventions in the newly designated part of Doro where the people from the congested areas are to be relocated to.

#### IDPs

- In Bunj, UNHCR provided NFIs to 5,149 flood affected individuals from eight surrounding villages around and 28 inmates in Maban. UNHCR and partners also registered and provided non-food items to individuals from the Koma community displaced from Dajjo Payam in Longichuk County.
- In Unity State, UNHCR is monitoring the distribution of soaps and jerry cans to IDPs in Parieng County. The distribution exercise, carried out by Samaritan's Purse, will cover nine payams despite the poor road conditions and insecurity.
- In Jonglei UNHCR distributed dignity kits to 279 women and girls of reproductive age in Langbaar district of Bor. 86 of the beneficiaries are IDPs from Twich East and Payams outside of Bor town, and 193 either from the host community or IDP returnees. The kit contained two bars of soaps, three underwears and two sanitary clothes. Prior to the distribution, UNHCR conducted a verification exercise with the help of the South Sudanese Relief and Rehabilitation Committee staff who liaised with local chiefs to register women and girls 14 to 45 years old. Four more local chiefs are expected to submit similar lists for female IDPs under their jurisdiction. Meanwhile, WFP food distributions started in the PoC on Friday 24 October 2014 and continued to other collective centers in Melut and Paloch.



## Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

### Achievements and Impact

- The Community Services section received nine SGBV cases during the reporting period. Two were cases of domestic violence and sexual exploitation in Kaya for which follow up and referral is in process. Two cases involving denial of material resources in Doro were followed up and resolved while the remaining five cases were found in Batil. UNHCR and partners will continue to follow up GBV trends. Since January, 225 SGBV cases (Doro 79, Batil 59, Gendrassa 33 and kaya 54) have been reported in the Maban camps, including early forced marriages, rape and domestic violence.
- The Community Services Unit followed-up a GBV case involving minors with both the victim and a detained perpetrator in need of specific protection given their age. Local authorities and law-enforcement agencies in Yei are involved in the management of the case.



## Camp Coordination and Camp Management

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps/Challenges



- Aid agencies involved in CCCM at the Malakal PoC have put in place a strategy to increase the participation of women and girls in community activities. DRC is leading efforts to create grassroots structures where at least half of the members in each block will be females. Female IDPs have had very the limited participation in the committees that help to address and manage issues such as water and sanitation, SGBV or nutrition.



## Logistics/Supply

### Achievements and Impact

- The Jamjang – Pariang road has finally opened after weeks of delays and rehabilitation work is in progress. With the opening of the route, UNHCR and partners were able to transport 176 MT of materials to both Yida and Ajuong Thok. The Items include construction materials for schools, health centres, WASH infrastructure and maintenance of the UNHCR compound in Jam-Jang. Another 140,000 litres of water were also trucked to the two refugee sites for the above construction works, as well as for the DRC Shelter Project in Ajuong Thok and the Yida transit center. Additionally, 145.13 MT of food were shipped from the Air drop zones to the WFP warehouse. The closure of the road, due to flooding, was hampering the delivery of aid to the camps, forcing humanitarian agencies to resort to costly airlifts.
- During the reporting period 6,000 litres of fuel were airlifted from Juba to Yida. The fuel issued in Yida was 3,393 litres and in Jam Jang 5,873 litres for a total of 9,266 litres. The higher consumption of fuel this week is due the delivery of 3,000 litres to UNOPS for road maintenance.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps/Challenges

- Several locations in Abyei Administrative Area (AAA) hosting IDPs have been partly or completely inaccessible for the duration of the rainy season due to flooding. However, a field visit to Majak Deng Kaya found conditions for the IDPs in that area to be good, with only minor WASH repairs needed. Inter-agency needs assessment of all the areas hosting IDPs, and re-verification of IDPs through biometric registration will take place as soon as flooding recedes and access allows. IOM is planning the re-verification together with UNHCR and other actors to ensure vulnerabilities are taken into account.



*The area of Maak Deng Kaya in Abyei is accessible with some constraints*

## WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

- During the week a joint assessment was conducted by UNHCR, UNOPS, DRC, AAHI, IRC to assess the proposed area for expansion of Ajuong Thok refugee camp as a matter of last resort should no other suitable place be provided for establishing a new camp to augment Ajuong Thok.
- UNHCR, IOM, DRC, WFP and SSRRC carried out registration of 40hh/132 individuals from Koma Community (Dajo Payam in Longichuk County) who were affected by the ongoing conflict in their county and fled to Maban through Yabus (Blue Nile). The IDPs were issued family rations of an assortment of non-food items (plastic sheeting, blankets, plastic mats, cooking sets and Jerri cans).
- UNHCR continued to participate in the National Ebola Task Force meeting. WHO and UNICEF will conduct a Training of Trainers on Ebola in the States at risk. UNHCR partners WVI in Western Equatoria and ACROSS in Central Equatoria, will benefit from the training that will follow the TOT session.

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some USD 111,086,209 million as of 21th October 2014.

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

### Funding received (in million USD)

