UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

SOUTH SUDAN
UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE 9/2016

1 - 15 May 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Sudan refugees outflow intensifies** - In the first two weeks of May, 2,114 Sudanese refugees from South Kordofan State arrived in Yida, bringing the number of new arrivals since 1st January 2016 to 6,748. This represents an increase by 124 percent compared to the previous two weeks. They reported hunger, aerial bombardments and ground attacks as the main reasons for fleeing to South Sudan. UNHCR provided them, inter alia, with registration, reception assistance and transportation to Ajuong Thok.
- **UNHCR continues to tackle malnutrition in Maban** - UNHCR and partners reached 4,758 children under five years and two years with the first round of Blanket Supplementary Feeding Program, including 916 in Gendrassa camp, 1,600 in Kaya camp and 2,242 in Yusuf Batil camp. This is part of a broader response to reduce high rates of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) and Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) among refugees in Maban.
- **UNHCR launches its Livelihood Strategy for South Sudan** - In Juba, UNHCR officially launched its 2016-2018 Livelihoods Strategy for South Sudan on 12 May, in an event gathering UN Agencies and NGOs working in this sector, including World Food Programme (WFP), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Universal Intervention and Development Organization (UNIDO). These organizations have jointly development a plan of action aiming at increasing refugees' access to livelihoods opportunities and reducing dependency on humanitarian aid. The strategy will target both refugees (70 percent) and host community (30 percent) in refugee-hosting areas such as Central Equatoria, Western Equatoria, Upper Nile, Unity and Jonglei.

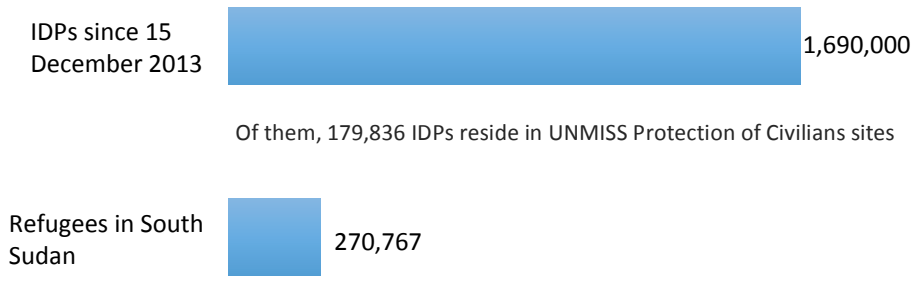
275,668,213 USD

Funding requested for comprehensive needs in 2016

121,556,542 USD

Funding requested for prioritized needs in 2016

Current population of concern



OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

- On 15 May, the military spokesperson of the Sudan People's Liberation Army in Opposition (SPLA-IO), Colonel William Gatjiath Deng accused the South Sudanese army (SPLA) of violating the permanent ceasefire by attacking opposition forces in their cantonment sites at Matjang and Tuarkiel, in Unity.
- On 13 May, United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, announced the appointment of Lieutenant General Johnson Mogoa Kimani of Kenya as the Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), replacing General Yohannes Gebremeskel Tesfamariam of Ethiopia.
- On 10 May, South Sudan's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) announced that the implementation of the new NGO law would be postponed until further notice due to technical reasons. The law, passed in February 2016, requires, inter alia, that 80 percent of the employees in international NGOs be South Sudanese nationals and gives powers to RRC to assess and audit the programs of NGOs.
- According to a WFP report, published on 9 May, South Sudan will face the most severe lean season in 2016 since its independence, driven by insecurity, poor harvests, and displacement in some areas of the country. As many as 5.3 million people may face severe food insecurity, with particular areas of concern in non conflict-affected states such as Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Eastern Equatoria.
- On 6 May, South Sudan's newly Transitional Government of National Unity (TGoNU) held its first cabinet meeting in the presence of President Salva Kiir and First Vice President Riek Machar. The most controversial issues were not discussed during this meeting, including the creation of 28 states and cantonment of forces in the two regions of Equatoria and Bahr el Ghazal.
- The Ethiopian National Defence Forces rescued 19 of the 108 children who had been abducted by armed men from South Sudan in a cross-border raid into Ethiopia's Gambella region on 15 April. The whereabouts of the remaining 89 children remain unknown, while a search operation continues.
- In a statement issued on 4 May, the United Nations Security Council called on the TGoNU to urgently remove impediments on the ground to the delivery of humanitarian assistance and to allow UNMISS free movement to exercise its mandate, including protection of civilians and investigation of human rights violations. The Security Council condemned, in the strongest terms, the attack against the UNMISS compound in Bentiu on 25 April.

REFUGEE RESPONSE

Protection

Achievements and Impact

Unity

- In Yida settlement, UNHCR registered and assisted 2,114 new arrivals from Sudan's South Kordofan in the first two weeks of May, bringing the total number of new arrivals since 1 January 2016 to 6,748. Nearly 90 percent of them are women and children, with unaccompanied minors and separated children accounting for 9 percent of the new arrivals. The vast majority came from Heban, Umdoreen and Boram counties and reported hunger, aerial bombardments and ground fighting as the main reasons for fleeing to South Sudan. During the reporting period, 2,814 refugees were relocated from Yida to Ajuong Thok, including 2,197 new arrivals and 617 long-standing residents of Yida. This brings the total number of refugees relocated to Ajuong Thok since the beginning of the year to 7,592.

Upper Nile

- In Gendrassa and Kaya camps, UNHCR conducted four focus group discussions with refugees of different age and gender regarding Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) as well as beliefs and practices that perpetuate Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV).

Central Equatoria

- In Lasu settlement, UNHCR conducted a two-day workshop for teachers from primary and secondary school, including on non-violent learning methods, freedom from violence, abuse, and exploitation in education as well as Code of Conduct for teachers.

Western Equatoria

- In Makpandu camp, UNHCR partner World Vision International (WVI) conducted a one-day training on SGBV prevention and response for 16 field workers.

Education

Achievements and Impact

Central Equatoria

- In Lasu settlement, UNHCR partner UNMCOR completed the renovation of two Early Child Development (ECD) centres in schools at Nyori I and II.

Health

Achievements and Impact

Upper Nile

- In Maban, UNHCR began distributing drugs for Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV/AIDS (PMTCT) to health facilities the camps and Bunj Hospital, as received from the Ministry of Health and UNICEF.

Food Security and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

Unity

- UNHCR and partners continued to carry out screening for malnutrition among new arrivals from Sudan's South Kordofan, including through Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) test and weight-for-height assessment. Of 424 children screened for malnutrition, 24 (5.7 percent) were found to suffer from Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) while none was found with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). All the malnourished children were enrolled in relevant feeding programmes.

Upper Nile

- In Maban, UNHCR and partners reached 4,758 children under five years and two years with the first round of Blanket Supplementary Feeding Program, including 916 in Gendrassa camp, 1,600 in Kaya camp and 2,242 in Yusuf Batil camp. This is part of a broader response to reduce high rates of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) and Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) among refugees in Maban.

Central Equatoria

- In Lasu settlement, May's General Food Distribution (GFD) reached 10,378 refugees. The food basket, reduced by 30 percent, consisted of maize, sorghum, yellow peas, vegetable oil and salt.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Upper Nile

- In Maban, UNHCR in coordination with South Sudan's Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA) and other partners relocated 63 Sudanese new arrivals from Doro camp to Kaya camp and provided them with non-food items, including blankets, sleeping mats, water cans, buckets, mosquito nets, plastic sheets and family tents.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

Unity

- In Ajuong Thok camp, UNHCR and partners began clearing and allocating to refugees some 1,000 hectares of agricultural land, donated by the host community. Some 1,500 refugee farmers will benefit from this donation, in addition to receiving cereal and legume seeds with a view to help them become more self-sufficient.

Upper Nile

- In Maban camps, the Child Resilience Program has so far engaged 1,852 adolescents in activities helping them develop coping mechanisms and skills for self-protection.

Central Equatoria

- In Juba, UNHCR officially launched its 2016-2018 Livelihoods Strategy for South Sudan, in an event gathering UN Agencies and NGOs working in this sector, including World Food Programme (WFP), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Universal Intervention and Development Organization (UNIDO). These organizations have jointly development a plan of action aiming at increasing refugees' access to livelihoods opportunities and reducing dependency on humanitarian aid. The strategy will target both refugees (70 percent) and host community (30 percent) in refugee-hosting areas such as Central Equatoria, Western Equatoria, Upper Nile, Unity and Jonglei.
- In Gorom camp, UNHCR and FAO commenced the distribution of seeds and tools to benefit some 2,000 Ethiopian refugees as well as their host community. The distribution included crop and vegetable seeds.
- At the Yei Vocation Training Centre, 24 youths from the refugee and host communities completed their training in different vocations, including mechanic, plumbing, construction building and joinery, tailoring, catering and hotel management, hairdressing, electrical installation and carpentry.

Western Equatoria

- In Makpandu camp, UNHCR partner WVI distributed FAO-donated seeds and agricultural tools to some 600 refugee farmers, including groundnuts, beans, sorghum and hoes.
- In Makpandu camp, UNHCR partner WVI enrolled 20 youth from refugees and host community in a three-month vocational training at Tindoka training centre.

IDP RESPONSE

Protection

COORDINATION

- At the request of the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) for South Sudan, Eugene Owusu, the Protection Cluster began leading the drafting of a Durable Solutions Framework for Internally Displaced Persons (IDP), which would subsequently guide discussions on the implementation of Chapter 3 (Humanitarian Assistance and Reconstruction) of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (ARCSS).
- The Protection Cluster released on 11 May its Situation Update on southern Unity, looking at the protective environment in the area one year since May 2015 offensive. The document is available here: http://data.unhcr.org/SouthSudan/admin/download.php?id=2745

OPERATIONS

Unity

- From April 27th to May 4th, UNHCR conducted a protection monitoring visit to Leer to assess the general protection situation in the area, including through focus group discussions with 70 IDPs, government representatives as well as international NGOs. Given the high mobility of the displaced population in the area, UNHCR and its partner Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) are looking into establishing a protection/information desk in areas of return in Leer and Mayendit counties and increasing provision of services available. UNHCR, through NRC, will also continue to prioritise the identification and registration of persons with specific needs (PSN) for targeted assistance.

Central Equatoria

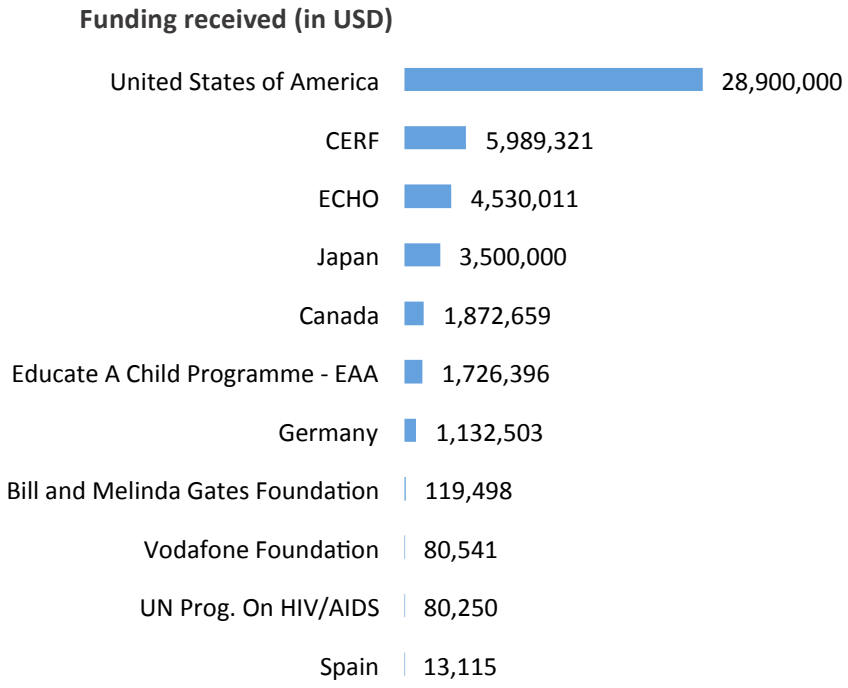
- In Mahad, UNHCR provided plastic sheets and non-food items to 49 IDP families who had lost their shelters due to a fire.

Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

Lakes

- In Rumbek, UNHCR and partners distributed plastic sheets and mosquito nets to 405 vulnerable families in Kadula area, Yirol West County.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to USD 47,946,614 as of 9 May 2016. 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 earmarked and broadly earmarked funds.