



UNHCR SOUTH SUDAN

Refugee Emergency Weekly Update

UNITY STATE

16-22 February 2012

Visit <http://data.unhcr.org/SouthSudan> for the latest information on refugees including statistics, operational updates, assessments and maps.

Current context/main developments

- The majority of Sudanese refugees in Unity state are still concentrated in Yida site, where they settled spontaneously on crossing the border from South Kordofan. Yida is precariously close to the contested area of Jau, the site of intermittent skirmishing between SAF and SPLM-N.
- State authorities have provided land in Pariang County for settlement in sites named Pariang and Nyeel, and for cultivation in Nyeel only. UNHCR and partners have created formal settlements in the two sites, and are establishing schools, health services and WASH (water, sanitation, hygiene) facilities. Efforts to relocate the refugees to the new sites are continuing.
- ICRC has established a family links service to enable refugees in Yida to telephone relatives in Khartoum. Out of 40 calls made, 31 were by unaccompanied minors.



Photo 1: 75% of the population in Unity state is aged under 18 years. [UNHCR/V.Tan]

Statistics

SETTLEMENT	REGISTERED POPULATION	INCREASE OVER LAST WEEK	REMARKS
Yida	Level 2 registration is ongoing.		- New arrivals registered this week: 0 - Relocations from Yida this week: 544 - Under 18 refugee population: 75% - Yida school-age population: 6,900+
Pariang	1,062	532	
Nyeel	637	12	
TOTAL	29,975	6,007	

Protection analysis

- **Physical safety:** Refugees have expressed legitimate justification to stay in Yida, such as concerns that they are not accustomed to living in flatlands, and fears that the areas could become flooded during the rainy season. Nonetheless, UNHCR remains deeply concerned about security risks in Yida as refugees are within shelling range of the conflict zone, which has also been the target of aerial bombardment.
- **Level 2 registration:** The exercise, which commenced in Yida in mid-February, is continuing with the aim of verifying, recording and updating information on individual refugees. Individuals who are at risk or have specific needs will be identified and attended to. Crucially, the results will help shape protection interventions as well as determine the amount of food, water and other material help needed.
 - Up to 22 February **12,261, individuals** (4,526 households) have been validated. The exercise in Yida is will be completed in a few days, to be followed by Pariang and Nyeel.
 - Registration was completed for **unaccompanied minors and separated children** and is now proceeding by *boma*. In the *bomas* cases have been identified where mothers registered their children as unaccompanied, and included those same children in the family registration. Resulting

discrepancies are being adjusted in the registration database. Similarly, anomalies where **family size** that cannot be verified or where families are found to be in possession of multiple ration cards are being rectified.

Operational response

- **Food and non-food items:** Samaritans Purse reported that a 14-day food ration of cereals, pulses, salt and vegetable oil was distributed to 27,944 beneficiaries between 9 and 11 February. Information on new arrivals requiring food during the on-going Level 2 registration has been shared with WFP. A mechanism to assist them is being tailored. Unaccompanied girls received 50 dignity kits from UNICEF and 864 bars of soap from UNHCR, the latter distributed by Non-violent Peace Force.
- Health, nutrition, education and water-sanitation-hygiene experts from UNHCR conducted assessments and activities in the various sites in collaboration with concerned actors as follows:

- **Nutrition:** an assessment was conducted in Yida with the objectives of establishing the magnitude of malnutrition among the children aged 6 to 59 months, and identifying needs for future programming. In terms of methodology, the rapid MUAC (Mid Upper Arm Circumference) assessment was conducted using MUAC for height (quac stick: 65cm-110cm) on all children in the above age group. The quac stick was used to save time and ensure coverage of all children in the age group. Wristbands were used to ensure there was no repetition. 4,090 children were screened and the preliminary results point to positive trends as shown below. The Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) emergency threshold is 15% whereas in Yida it was found to be 2.3%.

Severe acute malnutrition	PROXY SAM	0.37%
Moderate acute malnutrition	PROXY MAM	1.92%
Oedematous Malnutrition		0.024%
Global acute malnutrition	PROXY GAM	2.3%

- **Education:** The education assessment has been completed following field visits and consultations with State education authorities, concerned agencies and refugees. The assessment confirms initial predictions that heavy investment in education would be needed both to reinstate a sense of normalcy in students' lives and as a protection measure.
 - Children in Yida currently receive education in makeshift structures established by the refugee community. Only emergency education can be provided in Yida due to the unsafe nature of the site. UNHCR and UNICEF are discussing approaches with the refugee community.
 - 1,002 students accompanied by 19 teachers and caretakers from the refugee community have relocated to Pariang to attend secondary school. They are using vacant primary school buildings while South Sudanese students are on recess; the latter will resume class in the second week of April. Meanwhile preparations are ongoing to receive additional students.
 - Education infrastructure is being reinforced in both Pariang (secondary) and Nyeel (primary), including construction of classrooms and procurement of furniture and supplies. Ministry of Education has confirmed that the state curriculum is similar to that used in South Kordofan and that students can take exams in English or Arabic.
- **Health:** A measles vaccination campaign was conducted in correlation with the Level 2 registration. Up to 22 February 4,398 children between 6 and 59 months were vaccinated. Training on establishing a health information system is being conducted in Yida and will be expanded to healthcare providers in other sites. Referral mechanisms and SOPs are being developed to manage cases that require additional assistance. MSF-F outpatient department recorded 827 consultations for the week. Two TB cases were reported in Yida.
- **WASH:** Design of latrines is to be revised in Nyeel and Pariang using septic tanks to prevent flooding during the rainy season. In Nyeel, CARE is finalizing water piping and has begun hygiene promotion activities.