



04 August 2012

# Refugees in Upper Nile State

## FACT SHEET



### Background and operational context

⇒ In September 2011, fighting erupted between Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) in Blue Nile State, Sudan.

⇒ Subsequently, large numbers of civilians fled east across the border into Ethiopia and west into South Sudan. New arrivals continue to arrive in groups with about 30,000 arriving between May and July.

⇒ The refugees have settled in Maban county, Upper Nile state in four settlements namely, Doro, Jammam, Yusuf Batil and Gendrassa.

⇒ New arrivals are generally exhausted from long walks and lack of food and water *en route*.

### Challenges

⇒ Access to and within Upper Nile is being severely curtailed due to the rains. Several roads have become impassable. The challenge remains to deliver relief assistance to the refugees in a timely manner especially given the large numbers of new arrivals in recent weeks.

⇒ Runways capable of receiving large cargo aircraft are limited. The use of Paloich airport, under Dar Petroleum, allows for large aircrafts all seasons but is still far from the camps requiring the mobilisation of a substantial truck fleet.

⇒ The search of ground water sources in Jammam has yielded little results. A new site has been located in Gendrassa and relocation of refugees from Jammam to Gendrassa is on-going.

⇒ Over 10,000 persons have already been relocated from Jammam.



### Statistics

Location	Population
Doro	41,784
Batil	34,112
Jammam	25,176
Gendrassa	4,484
TOTAL	105,559



## UNHCR's role

⇒Co-ordination of responses to the refugees' needs with South Sudan authorities, UN and NGO partners through regular consultations at both point of delivery (Maban), state level (Malakal) and central levels (Juba).

⇒**The principal protection priority is to relocate refugees from border areas for their safety and in order to maintain the civilian character of refugee settlements.** Relocation from the border takes place regularly. Humanitarian actors comb border areas to locate refugees in consultation with local authorities, and move them away. Border areas have on occasions been the target of aerial bombardment (eg. Elfoj last January). Since December 2011, UNHCR has assisted over 60,000 refugees to move to safer locations inland.

⇒Protection monitoring, registration, identification and family reunion of separated and unaccompanied children, identifying and addressing concerns of persons with specific needs (including prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence) are key priorities.

⇒Coordination with the UN Mission in South Sudan and the UN Mine Action Centre regarding security including UXO clearance in settlement areas is on-going.

⇒Assuring provision of basic life-sustaining assistance to refugees, including protection, food, shelter, water-sanitation-hygiene, nutrition and health services.

⇒Livelihood activities in the form of cultivation and brick-making among others, are also being introduced. Education and vocational training programmes have also been initiated.



## New developments (Jul/Aug 2012)

⇒**Relocation:** Some 4,500 refugees have been relocated from Jammam to Gendrassa since the new camp was opened on 25 July. UNHCR plans to relocate up to 15,000 persons initially to Gendrassa . The major challenges remain the heavy rains which are likely to affect the speed of movements. The need to mobilise a large part of the truck fleet to secure food distribution in August is a further constraint.

⇒**High morbidity and mortality rates**, particularly among new arrivals. The main causes of morbidity among refugees are watery diarrhea, upper tract respiratory infections and malnutrition. Malnutrition levels remain high. The nutrition status of the population is particularly alarming in Yusuf Batil hosting the newest arrivals, with a SAM rate of 6 % and MAM 22%. Humanitarian agencies are conducting more in-depth surveys to further calibrate responses.

⇒**Continued influx:** Doro camp continues to receive new arrivals albeit in small numbers. The new arrivals are settling on the outskirts of the camp as there is no space available within camp boundaries. Over 100 refugees from the Inghassana community have arrived within the last 10 days.

## Operational Responses

⇒P Moving refugees from Jamman to Gendrassa settlement will help improve health conditions through improved water access and hygiene. Water systems in Gendrassa have been set up. *The target is to bring water supply levels up to 15 litres per person per day, in all settlements within the month of August.*

⇒P Health partners continue to work to tackle the high incidence of diarrhea and malnutrition among children under-five years. WASH actors are strengthening sanitation and hygiene conditions in order to mitigate the impact of water-borne and hygiene related diseases. Health systems are also being expanded and outreach campaigns increased to ensure early identification of cases. The target is to stabilize and start reversing the mortality trends by the end of August.

⇒The recent allocation by the CHF of US\$ 10 million will help partners to further expand their programmes.