

## Update on Emergency Response Operations in South Sudan

Week Ending 17 November 2012

### Highlights

- **UNHCR identifies new sites in anticipation of refugee influx into Maban**
- **Increasing numbers of refugees from Sudan arriving in Yida**
- **European Delegation Visits Yida**
- **Distribution of Non-food Items to urban refugees in Juba**

### Upper Nile State

#### **UNHCR identifies new sites in anticipation of refugee influx into Maban**

UNHCR and humanitarian partners are concretizing plans for a possible new influx of refugees into Maban County during the last quarter of 2012 and the first six months of 2013.

Active fighting in Blue Nile State is continuously reported with indications of heavy fighting in Sorkum, situated northwest of Kurmuk. Food insecurity following refugees' inability to cultivate crops on destroyed fields will be another factor drawing the remaining population of Blue Nile State into South Sudan. Similarly, refugees who have cultivated Sorghum are awaiting the results of success or failure of their crops before making a decision to flee south. While a shortage of food is expected in Blue Nile State, the main reason provided by new arrivals for flight remains bombardment. However, it is anticipated that new arrivals will present with a high rate of malnutrition.

Anticipating the majority of refugees to arrive at four key entry points, UNHCR and humanitarian partners have begun the planning and location of three way stations – two from Elfoj to Jamam transit center and another between Khortumbak and Doro refugee case scenario, the population can be expected to arrive in moderate to severe poor health. The aim of establishing the way stations would be to administer basic assistance and stabilize the new arrivals before transfer to Jamam transit center.

At the way stations, food, a mobile clinic, water and communal shelter will be provided before onward temporary relocation to Jamam. However, with the road between Elfoj and Jamam badly damaged, various means to carry the weakest from the borders to the way stations is being considered.

Refugees now outnumber the population of Maban and to maintain good relations, UNHCR and humanitarian partners are looking at sites in neighboring counties which require planning and development for long term occupation.

In terms of the location of sites, Longichuk and Melut Counties are being explored. Several sites are identified, pending further water survey and clearance through local authorities. Each of the sites can take between 25,000 and 40,000 persons.

Investigating additional sites still requires lengthy negotiations with local authorities and community leaders before comprehensive assessments can be undertaken.

Presently UNHCR will proceed with conducting a detailed assessment of way station and refugee sites, which will include further investigation on the rehabilitation of access roads and water sources.

### Unity State

#### **Increasing numbers of refugees from Sudan arriving in Yida**

The largest refugee settlement in South Sudan once again faces a sharp increase in new arrivals this week. More than 2,100 refugees have arrived in Yida since the start of the week, with 826 on Wednesday and 527 on Thursday. Refugees

say they are fleeing intensified fighting in their native South Kordofan in neighboring Sudan. UNHCR is concerned that this could be the first wave of an expected new influx of refugees coinciding with the start of the dry season as roads become once again passable.

More than 85 percent of new arrivals are women and children. They arrive exhausted from many days of walking. Many appear malnourished and as of 15 November 99 malnourished children under the age of five have been identified by health partners out of a total of 606 who have registered.

After being registered by UNHCR, refugees go through medical and nutritional screening and receive an emergency food ration and relief items such as jerry cans and kitchen sets to help them settle.

UNHCR is building a water point midway on the road to the border in order to ensure refugees have access to drinking water. A 5,000 liter tank is being installed and will be refilled on a daily basis. UNHCR teams are monitoring the corridor to the border and transporting the most vulnerable to Yida, where capacity at the registration center is being increased with additional latrines and water supply.

Refugees tell our staff that more people are heading towards the Jau border crossing point en route to Yida. They say they are moving in small groups in fear of aerial bombardment. Extrapolating from the past twelve months moving pattern and seasonal cycles, UNHCR contingency plans foresee two waves of new arrivals in the next few months. The first is from now until January at the onset of the dry season and the resumption of military activities in South Kordofan. The second surge is projected for April/May in Unity State and for June in Blue Nile State.

Together with partner agencies we are currently preparing contingency plans for South Sudan. In Unity State, where Yida is located, the planning scenario anticipates that 15,000 to 30,000 refugees could arrive by January 2013 with a total of 120,000 new arrivals by end June 2013. We are preparing sites and prepositioning food to be ready for the influx.

### European Delegation Visits Yida

From 14-15 November a delegation of high-ranking diplomats representing the European Union, ECHO, France, the Netherlands, the UK, Spain, Denmark and Germany visited Yida to assess the situation and the humanitarian response. During their visit, the group met with local officials, refugee leadership, and representatives from all humanitarian agencies on the ground. The toured facilities and services available in the settlement, and witnessed the food drops for the general food distribution.

Sven Von Burgsdorff, Ambassador and the Head of the EU Mission in South Sudan, said of the mission:

*"To ensure timely and effective implementation of the Addis Agreements and contribute to a lasting and peaceful resolution to the outstanding issues, it is essential to reduce the potential for conflict the refugee settlement in Yida currently represents."*

*"Given Yida's close proximity to the border, its difficult access during the rainy season and the fact that local resources cannot cater for such a large population of refugees, it is vital that part of the population be moved to safer locations that are more accessible and where essential resources such as ground water are available and where sustainable livelihood activities and key basic social services, notably education can be supported."*

European countries, together with the US, Canada and Japan have provided critical financial support to the refugee response so far both in Unity and Upper Nile States.



The European Delegation watches WFP's food drops in Yida Refugee Settlement on 15 November.  
UNHCR/K.Mahoney

## Juba

### Distribution of Non-Food Items to Urban refugees in Juba

From Wednesday through Friday, UNHCR distributed much needed non-food items such as, kitchen sets, sleeping mats, blankets, buckets, jerry cans, and soap to refugees from Blue Nile living scattered in Juba. The chiefs of the refugee community had helped with their registration before and assisted at the distribution points in various outskirts of the South Sudanese capital. Sanitary pads will be distributed in a different action directly to the women.

These refugees fleeing insecurity and hunger in Sudan, have entered South Sudan in smaller groups, some came by air at the beginning of the crisis. UNHCR estimates that there is a total of 7,000 refugees living in Juba out of which 4,500 already hold UNHCR registration cards.

The refugees are surviving on their savings and menial jobs like selling food or construction work.

UNHCR and host authorities have identified a site in Yei County, some 85 miles south of Juba as a relocation option for refugees originating from Sudan who are currently living in Juba. In a survey conducted in parallel to the distribution, the majority of refugees expressed their wish to leave Juba. UNHCR is proceeding with site planning and preparations so they can be moved within a couple of months.

### Statistics

Upper Nile State: 110,940		Unity State: 68,140	
Yusuf Batil	37,196	Nyeel	827
Doro	43,765	Pariang	763
Jamam	15,444	Yida	66,550
Gendrassa	14,515		

#### Partners:

ACROSS; ACTED; CARE; Danish Refugee Council (DRC); Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); GOAL; GIZ; IBIS; International Rescue Committee (IRC); International Organization for Migration (IOM); INTERSOS; MEDAIR; MSF-Belgium; MSF-France; Non-Violence Peace Force (NVPF); Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC); OXFAM; Relief International; Samaritan's Purse; Save the Children Fund; UNICEF; World Food Programme (WFP); World Health Organization (WHO); World Relief; World Vision International.