

## Update on Emergency Response Operations in South Sudan Week Ending 15 September 2012

### Highlights

- Hepatitis E outbreak kills 16 refugees; Government, WHO, UNHCR working with partners to tackle outbreak
- Heavy rains cause flooding in Maban County
- UNHCR and log cluster airlifted 27 tons of assorted relief items to Yida
- UN Security has confirmed safe landing in Nyeel

### Upper Nile State

**Hepatitis E Outbreak in Maban:** The Ministry of Health of South Sudan issued a press release announcing an outbreak of Hepatitis E in Maban County. UNHCR is working with the government, WHO, and all partners to control the spread of the disease, which led to the deaths of 16 refugees in three camps. A large-scale health outreach and hygiene promotion campaign is ongoing in all four camps. Other measures being taken include improving sanitation in the camps, increasing the amount and availability of safe drinking water in all camps.



**Water, Hygiene and Sanitation:** Efforts to prevent and respond to the outbreak of waterborne diseases continue, with a specific focus on combating the spread of Hepatitis E. Community hygiene promotion campaigns, including hygiene promoters, mobilisers and volunteers are in place in all the camps. Sheiks, who are the most influential community leaders, are actively supporting hygiene outreach and messaging. An additional 500g of soap is being distributed to refugees in all camps. In Batil, a decrease mortality rates is attributed to the ORS Points and improved referral systems for severe cases. Challenges still remain with regard to poor hygiene and sanitation in all camps, especially in Yusuf Batil, with the rainy season. A strong strategy is in place for additional hand washing points, latrines, soap and cleaners at community latrines, bucket chlorination at hand-pumps and tap-stands, and household-level chlorine monitoring. Borehole drilling continues in Doro, Batil and Gendrassa to improve access to potable water and in order to meet and possibly surpass international emergency standards.

**Heavy rains and flooding:** UNHCR is working with local authorities and other UN agencies to mitigate flooding damage in Bunj, capital of Maban County, and to put in place emergency response measures. The main road through Bunj was flooded. Although the road is badly affected, a UNHCR and UNOPS assessment team managed to reach the three camps near Bunj. All camps were found to be muddy as is normal in this season but without major flooding. Initial reports indicate that Jamam, 70km from Bunj, is not seriously affected. The road leading from Jamam to Gendrassa is deteriorating with the heavy rains and the passage of humanitarian trucks. While the present flooding is posing imminent risks for local populations only, there remains real threat that surging overflows from rivers in the Ethiopian highlands could spread through the entire county affecting any or all of the refugee camps.

**Health and nutrition:** While health and nutrition data in all camps points to improving trends, due to the fragile health of the population and continuing climatic factors, refugees remain vulnerable to watery diarrhea, respiratory tract infections and malaria. In Doro, MSF- Belgium and SP began screening refugee children for malnutrition. They identified 1,682 children aged 6-59 months with acute malnutrition. The estimated Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate for that age group is 18 percent. Stronger outreach is needed to ensure that all children are enrolled in the blanket-feeding program as this segment of the child population is considered to be the most vulnerable to malnutrition. Health actors reported that in Doro malaria and lower respiratory tract infection were the main causes of illness. There continues to be a decrease in watery diarrhea. In Yusuf Batil 2,047 acutely malnourished children are enrolled in the nutrition program and the estimated GAM rate is 22 percent. So far, 279 children in Gendrassa have been enrolled in the MAM program. Approximately 1,050 children are enrolled in nutrition program in Jamam and GAM is estimated at 16 percent.

**Jamam Relocation:** Relocation of refugees from Jamam 1—which was badly affected by heavy rains earlier this year—is nearing completion. From 4-10 September, 954 refugees including 19 new arrivals were relocated to Gendrassa which now hosts 10,049 refugees. The majority of the refugees were originally in Jamam. There was considerable improvement in the availability of trucks for relocation following UNHCR's appeal to partners for help with trucks. ACTED hired an additional commercial bus to help with transport from mobilization centers in Jamam to the UNHCR transit center. Relocation will now focus those who are willing to relocate from Jamam 2, which situated across the Bunj-Jamam road and currently hosts around 12,000 refugees.

**General Food Distribution:** The General Food Distributions for Gendrassa and Batil camps have now shifted to a 30-day cycle up from 15. The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) is currently installing two milling machines in Batil camp to improve access. UNHCR will distribute a total of 49 sacks of second-hand clothing in Doro, Batil and Gendrassa camps in the coming week. Clothing will also be given to medical centers, camp management and possibly schools for distribution to refugees with specific needs including older persons, and people with disabilities.

**Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) assessment:** DRC has completed an SGBV assessment of Doro camp, which will be finalized shortly. They are currently conducting similar assessments Batil and Jamam camps. UNHCR assisted the American Refugee Council (ARC) to identify sites for psychosocial support services in all camps.

**Registration of new arrivals:** The team registered a total of 1,092 individuals in all four camps. Registration is critical to ensure that new arrivals have access to food and relief items (blankets, mosquito nets, kitchen sets, soap, etc.). A backlog of registration developed in recent weeks, as staffing resources were concentrated on supporting the relocation of refugees from Jamam to Gendrassa.

**Education:** Save the Children opened primary schools in Yusuf Batil camp. 1,600 students have enrolled. At UNHCR's request, Save the Children provided child protection training to six staff members of the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare.

## Unity State

### YIDA

**Government presence in Yida:** The newly appointed Refugee Coordinator for Unity State was on mission to Yida for four days to focus on deforestation of areas around the camp and to identify sustainable solutions to environmental issues in the settlement.

**Registration of new arrivals:** During the reporting period, UNHCR registered 1,068 new arrivals. Of these, 73 were identified as having specific needs, including women and elderly at risk, unaccompanied or separated children, or people requiring urgent medical attention. UNHCR works with all unaccompanied minors who arrive to immediately identify parents or relatives in the camp or provides them foster care with families from their village. The team also registered 36 newborns in Yida.

**Protection:** Five girls from the unaccompanied minors compound were reunified with members of their family and were provided relief items to support their transition. A meeting was held with UNHCR and partners to discuss plans for all unaccompanied and separated children in the camp. Since the vast majority of children have been reunited with family or provided foster care, the existing four "boarding school compounds" are almost entirely vacated, particularly those for girls.

**Health, nutrition, and WASH:** During the reporting period, there were nine reported deaths in Yida during the week down from nearly four a day in mid-July. While UNHCR and partners remain vigilant, agencies remain cautiously optimistic that the health situation in the camp is stabilizing. On 11 September, a UNHCR nutrition team arrived in Yida to assess the current situation and meet with all health and nutrition partners.

The fourth of six additional boreholes that UNHCR has commissioned from Africa Water has been completed and is expected to be operational in the coming days. A total of 20 community latrines completed this week.

**Supply and logistics:** UNHCR airlifted some 27 tons of assorted NFIs with the support of the log cluster during the week, including plastic sheets, mosquito nets and buckets, as well as urgent medical supplies. Plastic sheets distribution continued and reached approximately 1,700 households. The goal is to distribute a total of 8,000 plastic sheets in the camp.

WFP started food airdrops on 9 September. Preliminary plan is for two drops a day, six days a week for the next two months at least. The aircraft will be on fixed schedule and should drop twice, at 10:00 am and 3:00 pm. This will mean a blackout of the airstrip for up to four hours per day.

**Pariang** Two local caretakers were assigned to look after the girls who were relocated to the new guesthouse in Pariang following the flooding of some long houses where they had been staying. More caretakers are being hired. A police officer is on duty 24 hours a day to ensure their protection.

**Nyeel** UNDSS confirmed that Nyeel is now safe for helicopter landings, relieving access and evacuation concerns. On 11 September UNHCR conducted a mission to Nyeel to register new arrivals to the camp. General conditions in Nyeel are satisfactory.

## Statistics

Upper Nile State: 105,600		Unity State: 66,551	
Batil	34,112	Nyeel	907
Doro	41,679	Pariang	1,223
Jamam	20,531	Yida	64,421
Gendrassa	9,278		

### Partners:

ACROSS; ACTED; CARE; Danish Refugee Council (DRC); 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 Purse; Save the Children Fund; UNICEF; World Food Programme (WFP); World Relief; World Vision International