

## Update on Emergency Response Operations in South Sudan

Week Ending 02<sup>nd</sup> September 2012

### Highlights

- Some health indicators improving in Unity and Upper Nile
- Jammam water supply rises to 12 litres per person per day
- NFIs distribution in Unity state ongoing
- New arrival down to 8 per day in Upper Nile and 29 per day in Unity
- Maban Host and Refugees communities seek to address claims for compensation over firewood and land demarcation



### Upper Nile State

**Security Situation:** The security situation in Upper Nile state remains calm although a heavy deployment of armed elements has been sighted in the environs of the El Fuj Border Point. UNHCR continues to engage partners and parties concerned on issues about risks of forced and child recruitment, including supporting a successful training of SPLA on issues related to child recruitment.

As part of maintaining the civilian character of the camp, South Sudan military personnel dressed in plain clothes on August 25 conducted a search for armed elements suspected to be in parts of Jammam Refugee camp. The members of the South Sudan military that conducted the search were unarmed and carried out the search in a respectful and law abiding manner. Some 16 individuals were arrested for suspected involvement in military activities but were later released.

UNHCR continues discussions with the South Sudan military and other partners on mechanisms for ensuring the civilian and humanitarian character of the camps, addressing issues such as further training/sensitization and monitoring to ensure that arms and armed elements are not within the camps. UNHCR has, on the other hand, also stressed to the South Sudan military the need to avoid refoulement of individuals who may be seeking asylum or may otherwise face serious human rights abuses.

**Host Community Relations:** Over the past month there have been discussions between refugees and host communities over firewood collection and land demarcation. Members of the host community are requesting compensation over firewood collection. The humanitarian community continues to advocate for peaceful coexistence and dialogue, while redoubling efforts to ensure that host communities also see the benefits from refugee programming.

**New Arrivals:** During the week under review, UNHCR received 53 new arrivals. The decrease in the number of new arrivals is primarily because many are unable to cross the swelling riverbeds from the Ethiopian and White Nile floods. There have however been movements of populations, thought to be new arrivals crossing the El Fuj Border point at river El Fuj en route to Jammam refugee site. The new arrivals usually stop over at Kolgan village for a night before moving on to Jammam. Some of the people interviewed revealed the heightening conflict and the food insecurity were among the major reasons for flight. The road between El Fuj and Kolgan village is in a state of disrepair and has made movement very difficult.

**Water and Sanitation:** Water supply has improved from an average supply rate of about eight litres per person per day to 13 litres per person per day in all four Maban camps, although Jammam remains lower at 11 l/p/d. While the bulk of the water is supplied through boreholes, some is supplied by water trucks. However the taxation policy on local contractors and private vehicles in Maban county is proving counterproductive and a number of tankers will be withdrawn soon. This could hamper water supply efforts.

As part of the initiative to increase sanitation coverage in Jammam, 87 latrines have been completed out of a planned 150 latrines. In terms of hygiene promotion, a bucket-exchange distribution is on-going in all camps.

## Unity State

**New arrivals:** During the week under review, 205 new arrivals (or 29 new arrivals per day) arrived.

**Health/Nutrition:** During the week under review, six deaths were reported. Five of the deaths were from diarrhoea and one from malaria. The two diseases remain the main causes of death. Health agencies are improving surveillance through increased monitoring by Community Health Workers. A public health Working Group has also been established to harmonize hygiene and health promotion campaigns towards prevention management of diarrhoea. There has been a decline in the admissions into the stabilization with 25 patients admitted and 30 discharged. A malnutrition survey is planned for the first week of September in order to ascertain the root causes of malnutrition in Yida. The survey will also determine the overall food security situation within the camp in terms of access and food commodity utilization.

**Water and Sanitation:** With a total of seven motorised boreholes the average amount of water supplied per person per day in Yida is nine litres. A newly drilled borehole which will soon be connected to the water reticulation system is in place with another currently being drilled. Meanwhile, chlorination of about 4,000 buckets a day continues at water distribution points to reduce water contamination with distribution of new water containers also ongoing side by side with the chlorination. As part of the initiative to increase latrine coverage, 56 latrines were completed during the week under review edging the total number of latrines in Yida closer to 800. Hygiene promoters are conducting hygiene education and promotion campaigns at health facilities and through Focus Group Discussions in sync with the increased water supply and increase in sanitation facilities coverage. Other hygiene promotion initiatives are also being conducted as a means to stemming the tide of hygiene related diseases.

**Logistics:** The heavy rains remain an impediment to smooth execution of humanitarian assistance plans. Yida and the other camps in Unity state are still cut off due to the swell-up of seasonal rivers. Humanitarian movement and action is currently heavily dependent on air transport which is costly and limited in terms of its ability to deliver bulky items and to transport humanitarian workers.

**Pariang Relocation:** Due to the flooding, in Pariang settlement, relocation of girls from the guest house commenced last week with 59 girls relocated so far, out of 127 targeted.

**NFI Distribution:** Non Food Items are due to be distributed during the week of 29 August 2012. The distribution will target post – 15 June new arrivals as well as families with 3 – 4 members. In addition, distribution of jerry cans, soap, blanket and sleeping mats will be conducted for families with children under the age of five while mosquito nets and buckets will be distributed to all refugees. Plastic sheeting airlifted from Juba has been delivered to Yida and will also be distributed within the coming days. Meanwhile, WFP is planning food air drops to commence on 6<sup>th</sup> of September. Preparation of the Drop zone has begun.

## Statistics

Upper Nile State: 104,960		Unity State: 64,503	
Batil	34,112	Nyeel	844
Doro	41,063	Pariang	1,051
Jammam	22,042	Yida	62,608
Gendrassa	7,743		

### 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