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UNHCR South Sudan

Situation Report

Developments

UN Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos, arrived in South Sudan on 27 January to assess the humanitarian situation

The overall security situation has remained calmer, despite reports of sporadic gunfire from locations in and around Juba, Malakal, Bor, Bentui.

According to OCHA, around 646,400 people are displaced inside South Sudan, with the largest number in Upper Nile State.

UNHCR reports refugee outflows from South Sudan since 15 December 2014 currently stand at 108,142:

- 59,107 : Uganda
- 21,234 : Ethiopia:
- 10,801 : Kenya:
- 17,000 : Sudan (estimate, not including Abyei)

Refugee operations

- **Unity state**

The overall security situation in Pariang County remained relatively stable. The movement of state and non-state armed actors throughout the area (particularly along the Pariang-Yida-Jau corridor) started to subside, including a marked decrease of armed personnel congregating in Yida market. The reduction in movements/visibility of armed elements, together with continued engagement by Commission for Refugees Affairs, should lead to continued improvement in the protection environment following the return of international and national agencies.

Assessments of the effect of the internal conflict on refugees in Yida and Ajuong Thok have been completed. In Ajuong Thok refugees expressed concerns they may experience food shortages because of displaced South Sudanese they are hosting (with whom they share their food). In addition, they reported the presence of armed military in the camp who come to visit their displaced relatives staying temporarily. The issue has been brought to the attention of the local authorities who have assured UNHCR that they will address it.

In Yida, there are continuing serious concerns about recruitment of children, including through enticement with offers of cash.

567 refugees were relocated from Yida to Ajuong Thok as of 24 January.

One emergency medical referral (an eight month child with intestinal obstruction) was evacuated from Yida to Juba using UNHAS flight. Medical referrals to Juba are expected to increase as there is currently no medical or surgical capacity in Bentiu hospital, and no referral facility in Unity state.

A suspected case of measles was reported at MSF clinic in Yida (a displaced person from Bentiu aged 38 years). Blood specimen was taken for further investigation. Discussions are on-going with regard to a prior plan by MSF in collaboration with UNHCR and other partners to conduct a measles campaign with support from Ministry of Health, WHO and UNICEF.

In Yida, the weekly incidence of Hepatitis E Virus cases remains within the pre-crisis range (less than 5 cases). Based on the date of visit, three new cases were registered in Epi week 4 (20-26 Jan 2014), compared to one case in week 3, with no reported death. In Yida, 626 cumulative cases of Hepatitis E (of which 21 reported from the surrounding community and 141 under-fives), and a total of 18 deaths have been reported since the outbreak started in August 2012. Ongoing response measures in Yida include new latrines construction, water quality monitoring, hygiene promotion, case management and surveillance. Latrine coverage in Yida is estimated at 1:16; the standard is <1:20).

There is a steady increase in the number severe acute malnutrition (SAM) patients in Yida from week 1 to week 4. It is worth noting that the majority of these are readmissions (132 SAM in week 1, and 183 in week 4). The increase could be explained in part by increasing access to services as the security situation improves. Additionally, mass MUAC screening is on-going in both Yida and Ajuong Thok.

Internal displacement

UNHCR is participating in the IDP response via the inter-agency collaborative approach under the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator.

- **Non food items**

As of 27 January, UNHCR has released non food items for distribution to 12,060 households from its emergency stockpile. 50% of the NFI are currently being distributed to IDPs in Nimule by MSF. 25% are loaded on trucks ready for dispatch to Mingkaman near Bor pending security clearance following reported rebel activity in the area. With over 70,000 Mingkaman has the highest concentration of IDPs in the country. 17% of the items were released to the Emergency Shelter & NFI cluster for distribution to IDPs in Bentiu. UNHCR distributed the remaining 8% UNHCR in various locations, working with local authorities and other partners. In January UNHCR airlifted core relief items (blankets, tents, kitchen sets, etc.) for 75,000 beneficiaries to support the IDP response effort in South Sudan. Arrangements are under way to dispatch items for 10,000 IDPs in Malakal from the emergency stockpile.

- **Protection Cluster**

Protection Cluster actors have been engaged in a revision of the Crisis Response Plan, which now covers six months.

Protection Cluster coordinators provided inputs to OCHA and the Special Rapporteur for IDPs in connection with the visit of V. Amos (27-29 Jan), highlighting key issues such as the importance of robust physical protection of civilians within and outside UNMISS bases, and the criticality of the principles of voluntariness, safety and dignity in connection with durable solutions assessments for IDPs. In these regards, a visit to the UNMISS Topping PoC area by UNHCR and Protection Cluster actors included discussions with various residents especially focused on issues of durable solutions thinking in the wake of the signing of the cessation of hostilities.

- **Eastern Equatoria State**

UNHCR has strengthened its presence in Nimule following a mission to assess the protection situation on the South Sudan-Uganda border. Nimule is along the principal transit route for South Sudanese nationals seeking refuge in Uganda. IDPs are not prevented from entering the town and are free to cross into Uganda, where they are not required to undergo conventional immigration processing. Meanwhile indications are that local authorities are facing challenges with respect to the

presence of IDPs who have settled rather than cross the border, amid resistance from local communities.

- **Unity State**

As lead agency for the IDPs in Pariang County, UNHCR is consolidating results of an inter-agency Rapid Assessment that was initiated together with RRC and the Commission for Refugee Affairs. Local authorities had reported between up to 50,000 displaced living among local communities. Preliminary indications are that the actual number of IDPs could be considerably lower.

IDPs who fled Biu Payam and settled in Panyayir were found to be in dire need of food, clean water and shelter. Those IDPs reported that they had fled their homes after 37 of their own were killed by attackers from a neighbouring village. Prospects for their return remain uncertain as they are concerned about insecurity in their home area.

A number of IDPs and third country nationals took refuge at the UNMISS base in Pariang IDPs where they are protected by the Mongolian Infantry Battalion. The peacekeepers are providing the IDPs with food, shelter, medical care and water. The base however lacks ablution facilities for the IDPs.

- **Abyei Administrative Area**

The number of verified IDPs in Abyei currently stands at 2,856 individuals (674 households) as registered by IOM. In coordination with WFP and based on a nutrition screening by GOAL, agencies agreed to verify under fives as WFP was willing to provide CSB+ supplement as a means to support nutrition for under fives over the medium term.

On the NFI front, UNHCR will provide mosquito nets, blankets and jerry cans. UNICEF will provide sleeping mats. The NFI's will be distributed in tandem with the food distribution; WFP started moving food from their stores.

UNHCR will participate in the distribution exercise to ensure that the most vulnerable are prioritized. UNHCR has engaged IDP leaders regarding community-based support for the elderly and disabled who will need assistance to carry food and other items. UNHCR also continues to encourage IDP families who remain in the open or in isolated areas to return to the communities. Discussions are to be held with the host community to encourage them to absorb IDPs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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FOR REFUGEE INFORMATION ON THE SOUTH SUDAN SITUATION, VISIT

<http://data.unhcr.org/SouthSudan/regional.php>

