

# SOUTH SUDAN EMERGENCY SITUATION

## SUDAN UPDATE

23 January 2014

### OVERVIEW

- Since the outbreak of violence in Juba, South Sudan, on 15 December 2013, over 490,000 people have been displaced internally, including nearly 68,000 who have sought security in the compounds of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). The conflict also forced over 91,000 South Sudanese refugees to flee their homes and to cross into Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda.
- Arrivals to Sudan were reported from 24 December, beginning in smaller numbers to areas in South and West Kordofan States. These were largely nomadic populations and those affected by fighting in Bentiu, Unity State in South Sudan.
- Since 15-16 January, arrivals have significantly increased in numbers, and have been reported mostly in White Nile State as a result of the fighting in and around Malakal, Upper Nile State in South Sudan.
- Conflicting information has been received from different government counterparts as to the type of protection South Sudanese individuals fleeing the conflict in South Sudan will be granted
- Although registration of refugees has yet to take place, reports suggest that a large percentage of those arriving are women, children and the elderly.

3,616 – 3,869	2,412 – 3,834	9,709	1720 - 1850
South Kordofan State	West Kordofan State	White Nile State	Other areas

### TOTAL ESTIMATED ARRIVAL FIGURE: 17,519

FOOD ASSISTANCE: 1,634 (WFP) 3,714 (SRCS)

NON FOOD ITEMS: 6,125 PEOPLE (UNHCR)

NOMADS VERIFIED: 2,413 (IOM)

#### SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEES

(NEWLY ARRIVED SINCE 15 DECEMBER)

Ethiopia	20,624 <sup>1</sup>
Kenya	8,430
Sudan	17,000 <sup>2</sup>
Uganda	45,239
<b>Total</b>	<b>91,239</b>

<sup>1</sup> The numbers reported from Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda are up to 16 January. <http://data.unhcr.org/SouthSudan/regional.php>

<sup>2</sup> The number quoted is an estimate, as cross referenced verification in some areas is difficult, and in other areas verification and registration is yet to begin. Numbers may therefore go up or down, and do not include those arriving to the Abyei PCA Box.

# OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

## Sudan

### NEW ARRIVALS

- Since the external update shared on the 13 January, the major corridor of new arrivals has shifted from South and West Kordofan States to White Nile State, which reflects the onset of heavy fighting in Malakal, Upper Nile State, and its relative proximity to the Sudan border. Arrivals have occurred into the two localities bordering South Sudan – Al Salam Locality and El Jebelein Locality – totaling just under 10,000. As of 21 January, an estimated figure of 4,209 (with 196 verified by SRCS) were present in Al Salam Locality – 4,013 crossing at El Keuk, and 196 at El Megeines. In El Jebelein Locality, the current figure stands at 5,500, arriving through the Joda border crossing.
- SRCS reported a potentially large number of new arrivals into Abu Jibeiha, South Kordofan. Their team is currently on the ground verifying numbers. IOM have reported 86 new arrivals to Qurayd village, a site of arrival in the earlier part of January in the same locality.
- There are reports of potential movement into Blue Nile State of up to 1,250, but this information has yet to be confirmed due to lack of access in the area.
- A very small number of arrivals have been noted in East Darfur from the Dinka community, who have already settled into Khor Omer IDP camp within the State.

### RELOCATION SITES

- Two relocation sites, one in each locality receiving refugees, have been identified in White Nile State to facilitate movement of refugees a safe distance away from the border:

Al Alagaya, El Jebelein Locality (105kms from Kosti and 60kms from Joda border crossing) has the capacity for approximately 13,000 refugees. The Government began moving refugees from Joda to the site on 20 January, with 445 persons (89 households) relocated by the morning of 22 January.

Kilo 10, north of Umjalala village, Al Salam Locality (166kms from Kosti and 60 kms from El Naeem) was selected on 19 January to accommodate the influx of people from El Megeneis and El Kuek crossings. Movement of refugees from the crossings to the relocation site begins on 22 January.
- Establishment of the relocation sites is occurring while the relocation of refugees away from the border is underway, as access for site planning purposes prior to the relocation was not granted. There are currently great needs in terms of water and sanitation, access to healthcare and availability of fuel and wood for shelters, as the surrounding environment in each location has limited natural resources.

### PROTECTION

- Among the new influx of refugees, the majority of refugees are women, young children and the elderly, who are severely traumatized and are lacking the most basic needs including clothing. The security situation at the border is precarious, so the priority is currently being given to relocating newly arriving refugees to sites further away from the border. A high number of extremely vulnerable individuals have been identified.
- There are unconfirmed reports that South Sudanese just on the other side of the border, on their way to cross into White Nile State, were involved in an incident with UXOs, with potential casualties. The White Nile State Emergency Coordination Committee is investigating.

## SHELTER

- SRCS distributed 200 tents (175 to Al Alagaya and 25 to Kilo 10 relocation sites) on 21 January. Three families will be accommodated per tent.

## NFIs

- On 13 January, UNHCR released 600 plastic sheets, 1,200 sleeping mats, 1,200 blankets and 1,200 mosquito nets to the Commissioner of Refugees (COR) to be airlifted to West Kordofan for distribution by the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) to new arrivals in South and West Kordofan. These items will benefit 600 households (approximately 3,000 people). Cooking sets and jerry cans for the same number of households will be transported by road together with WFP food rations.
- On 15th January, UNHCR dispatched a truck with emergency shelter and non-food items from its El Obeid warehouse for 160 refugees and 950 border tribe new arrivals in Elliri, South Kordofan State, who are assessed to be in dire need. The NFI kits include plastic sheets, jerrycans, cooking sets, blankets, sleeping mats. Following assessments, distribution was completed to 150 refugees by partner Mubadiroon, whilst assessment and distribution to border tribe new arrivals is ongoing..
- On 18 January, 400 jerry cans, 400 kitchen sets, 800 blankets, 800 mosquito nets and 1,600 laundry soaps (NFIs for 400HHs) were delivered to Al Alagaya relocation site in El Jebelain locality, White Nile, in response to the recent new arrivals. These are being distributed together with SRCS NFI stocks to refugees in Al Alagaya & Kilo 10 sites. SRCS will advise the Sector of ES & NFI gaps, so that additional items can be transported from El Obeid and Khartoum. SRCS have distributed 1,000 cooking sets, 1,000 plastic sheets and 1000 blankets in Kilo 10 relocation site, and 500 blankets in Al Alagaya relocation site.
- Preparations are still underway for the pre-positioning of 5,000 NFI kits (for 25,000 people), in the WFP warehouse in Kosti, White Nile State to facilitate rapid response to new arrivals expected from Upper Nile State.
- Discussions are ongoing with WFP for the transportation and pre-positioning of additional NFI kits in WFP's warehouse in Abu Jubeiha in South Kordofan for new arrivals expected from Unity State and Upper Nile State.

## FOOD

- WFP have distributed food to 1,634 individuals, 811 nomads and 150 refugees in Elliri, and 637 in Abu Jubeiha, South Kordofan State.
- SRCS distributed food to 3,714 individuals at Joda border crossing in White Nile State. WFP has yet to receive a request for further food assistance.

## WASH

- An emergency water pump was delivered to Al Alagaya relocation site on 21 January by SRCS, along with distribution of 2,700 soaps. UNICEF provided three water bladders, which have been installed.
- UNICEF is currently pre-positioning WASH supplies in Kosti, White Nile State, in anticipation of the needs of new arrivals in the state.

## COORDINATION

- UNHCR convened a co-ordination meeting with OCHA, IOM, WFP and UNICEF on Monday 20 January to update partners on most recent response and co-ordination mechanisms. The operationalization of

the Commissioner of Refugees (COR)-UNHCR Contingency Plan will be handled through the Refugee Multi Sector, led by UNHCR, in coordination with COR the designated Government agency for all refugee matters. A larger RMS meeting with all response partners will be held on Thursday 23 January.

### **Abyei PCA Box – Note on Reporting**

Abyei is distinct from the locality of Abyei in West Kordofan State in Sudan. Abyei, also known as the Abyei Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) box, covers the area discussed in the Abyei Protocol of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) of 2005, whose borders were further demarcated by the CPA and agreed upon by both Sudan and South Sudan. Under the terms of the Abyei Protocol, the residents of the Abyei Area have been declared, on an interim basis, to be simultaneously citizens of the states of South Kordofan (Republic of Sudan) and Northern Bahr el Ghazal (Republic of South Sudan) until such time as a referendum can determine the permanent status of the area. As the referendum has yet to take place, Abyei PCA box is considered to have special administrative status. For logistical reasons, assistance to residents of Abyei PCA box is currently coordinated and monitored by UNHCR South Sudan, while not implying any political opinion by UNHCR as to the final status of Abyei. Updates on Abyei will appear in UNHCR's South Sudan Emergency Situation updates.

Other humanitarian partners assist Abyei PCA Box from both Sudan and South Sudan. Arrivals figures quoted in this document do not include those going into Abyei PCA Box.