

**414,052,136 USD**

Requested for the operation

Gap  
74.35%

Funded  
25.65%



## SOUTH SUDAN

### UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE 20/2015

21-27 May 2015

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **High-level visits:** Director-General of the International Office for Migration (IOM) William Lacy Swing, accompanied by Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General Ellen Margrethe Loej and UNHCR Representative Ahmed Warsame, visited Bentiu Protection of Civilians site, Upper Nile State, on 23 May. The IOM Director-General hailed UNHCR's shelter/NFI assistance. Earlier in the week the UNHCR Representative and the Deputy Commissioner for Refugee Affairs visited Yei and the Lasu refugee settlement, Central Equatoria State, to assess refugee programmes and assistance to the host community.
- **High profile supporter:** United Nations Honorary Advocate Woo-sung Jung visited Ajuong Thok, Yida and Gorom refugee sites as well as the Juba Protection of Civilians (POC) site to familiarize himself with the plight of persons of concern and raise awareness of UNHCR's work in the Republic of Korea and internationally.
- **New reception centre:** UNHCR Branch Office Juba has opened a new reception centre, which will be used for registration of new arrivals, refugee status determination, and individual counselling of refugees. Thirty individuals were attended to in the first week.
- **Vaccinations done:** UNHCR partners Medair and IMC in cooperation with Unicef, WHO and Health County Department/Ministry of Health, have completed integrated polio and measles vaccination campaigns in Kaya, Gendrassa and Yusuf Batil refugee camps in Upper Nile State with 100 per cent coverage.

#### Current population of concern

IDPs since 15 Dec  
2013



1,555,059

Of them, 130,486 IDPs reside in UNMISS Protection of Civilians sites

Refugees in South  
Sudan



261,925

## OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

- The Government has welcomed East Africa regional bloc IGAD's decision to request Sudan to play a leading role in resolving the ongoing internal conflict in South Sudan.
- Fierce fighting between Government troops and SPLA-IO/Olony's forces in Melut, Upper Nile State, resulted in the killing of 8 IDPs in the UNMISS Melut POC, looting of aid supplies and compounds and evacuation of all humanitarian personnel on 22 May.
- Malakal has reportedly been retaken by Government forces, but the situation remains unclear.
- Contingency planning for possible evacuations is under way in the UNHCR's sub-office in Bunj, Maban County. Plans are in place to evacuate a number of staff from Malakal if the airport reopens.
- Mundri in Western Equatoria State has been tense following the murder of two SPLA soldiers and the shooting of several other officials. There are unconfirmed reports of the closure of the Yambio-Juba road and Mundri airstrip. Several shops and lodges, as well as 3 WFP contracted trucks carrying relief items were looted from 22-24 May. Government offices and businesses remain closed. 74 IDPs from Mundri have reportedly arrived in Yei County.
- The number of people facing food shortages is projected to hit 4.6 million by July, nearly one million more than in April, according to Erminio Sacco, the chief adviser for the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (Wall Street Journal).

## REFUGEE RESPONSE



### Protection

#### Achievements and Impact

##### Central Equatoria State

- 7 children under 10 years of age, cared for by their elderly grandmother, were identified in Lasu settlement and provided with appropriate support.

##### Unity State

- 397 new refugees arrived in Yida settlement and 276 refugees were transferred from Yida to Ajuong Thok (AT) camp from 21-27 May. AT now has a population of 28,276.
- 12,285 new arrivals have been registered in Yida since 23 December 2014; 13,271 refugees have been relocated from Yida to AT during the same period; 87 per cent of the relocated refugees are new arrivals.
- AT: SGBV messages on sexual assault and its consequences were delivered to 333 persons at the clinic, and in-house-to-house sessions.
- AT: 81 children were received at the reception centre; 23 children (13 girls and 10 boys) were fostered in various blocks after being confirmed by the Protection team at the reception.
- AT: 19 children (10 boys and 9 girls) were confirmed to have separated from their biological parents and are staying with relatives; 25 unaccompanied minors (18 boys and 7 girls) were recorded, with 9 children (5 boys and 4 girls) fostered.
- AT: 5 boys were reunified with their parents in Ajuong Thok camp.

##### Upper Nile State

- Kaya camp: A ceremony to officially hand over agricultural land to the refugee community was organized between the host community and refugees on 18 May. The refugee community will start demarcation and allocation of the land shortly. The event started with the host and refugee communities, along with agencies, walking together to the agricultural land; a cow was then slaughtered to mark the handover. Host community leader Sheikh Alemin formally announced the handover of the land to refugees. He urged them not to cut down big trees.
- Kaya camp: 47 community leaders were trained on child protection issues. The main topics were related to the South Sudanese child act, reporting mechanisms and the referral pathway.
- Doro camp: From 15-21 May, 66 new arrivals (14 households) and 224 new births were registered.
- 62 persons with special needs were managed and assisted across all four refugee camps from 15-21 May.

## Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

### **Achievements and Impact**

#### **Western Equatoria State**

- UNHCR partner World Vision International distributed 21 chickens and 29 ducks in Napere refugee settlement. They are for breeding, as a form of livelihood support.

## Education

### **Achievements and Impact**

#### **Unity State**

- Ajuong Thok: Secondary school enrolment increased by 153 (114 boys and 39 girls) new students in Form One; total enrolment currently stands at 1,294 (980 M/314 F).

## Food Security and Nutrition

### **Achievements and Impact**

#### **Unity State**

- Yida: A general food distribution (GFD) reached 66,523 beneficiaries - 99 per cent of those targeted; in Ajuong Thok, 26,752 beneficiaries were reached (96.6 per cent). Although the GFD basket lacked salt, it provided 100 per cent of the planned 2100 Kcal minimum daily energy requirement.

### **Identified needs and remaining gaps**

#### **Upper Nile State**

- The trend of acute malnutrition continues to increase in all four camps in Maban. A shortage of nutrition commodities (CSB++ from WFP) has not allowed the Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme (BSFP), originally scheduled for April, to start. Plumpy'Nut and therapeutic foods from UNICEF have been transported by UNHCR from Juba to Maban, and the dispatch of supplies to partners based on available stocks is ongoing. UNHCR is advocating with WFP to pre-position commodities (CSB++) in order to re-start BSFP as soon as possible; pursuing and expanding Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme (increased number of admissions); conducting Regular Outpatient Therapeutic Programme sessions; promoting Health and Hygiene Education and infant and young children feeding (the nutrition and health status of refugees is more fragile at the peak of the dry season); working on food security: obtaining agricultural land for the refugees (Kaya completed, Batil/Gendrassa done on 23 May); and preparing for general seed distribution (to start on 8 June) to enhance food security and livelihoods.

## Health

### **Achievements and Impact**

#### **Western Equatoria State**

- 545 patients, including host community members, received medical treatment in health facilities in the refugee settlements of Makpandu and Napere.
- A new VCT centre has been established at Napere primary health care unit - part of efforts to strengthen HIV/AIDS programmes for refugees in 2015.



## Shelter and NFIs

### Achievements and Impact

#### Unity State

- Ajuong Thok (AT): 184 Shelter Kits were distributed.
- AT: 42 transitional shelters were completed in the reporting week (1,708 since March 2013).
- AT: 13.5 tons of multi-purpose soap was distributed to over 2,700 beneficiaries.
- Yida: 68,755 bars of soap were distributed to 224 volunteers, 806 school children, 223 new arrivals and 720 pregnant and lactating women. 66,782 refugees received soap during the general food distribution.

#### Upper Nile State

- Of the 1,200 transitional shelters planned in Doro, 600 units are completed (50 per cent) with an additional 30 in progress.
- Of the 768 transitional shelters planned in Gendrassa, 103 units are completed (13 per cent) with an additional 233 in progress.

#### Western Bahr el Ghazal

- Wau: UNHCR provided NFIs to 7 asylum seekers originally from the Darfur region of Sudan and carried out vulnerability assessments on their dwellings in different locations.

#### Western Equatoria State

- 3,652 bars of soap were distributed to Makpandu refugee settlement and 3,670 to Napere refugee settlement during the May general food distribution.
- 9 *tukuls* were constructed and completed for refugees with specific needs in Makpandu refugee settlement.



## Water and Sanitation

### Achievements and Impact

#### Unity State

- Ajuong Thok (AT): Average per capita water consumption is 15.95.
- AT: To date 2,162 latrines have been constructed (11 persons per latrine).
- AT: Free Residues Chlorine tests were conducted both at household level and tap stands during water quality monitoring. The chlorine concentration ranges from 0.2mg/l to 0.5mg/l, and 0.5mg/l to 0.8mg/l respectively.
- AT: The drilling of new boreholes has started in Block 55.
- AT: The trenching of water pipelines from borehole No. 4 to Soba Secondary School and from borehole No. 3 to Merowe Primary School was successfully completed; pipe-laying and the connection will be completed in the coming week.
- AT: 41 households and 4 shared latrines were constructed during the reporting week. The household latrines were constructed across the camp while the communal latrines were constructed in zone F (Blocks 41, 43 and 44).

#### Upper Nile State

- Doro camp: Construction of 18 family-shared latrines is in progress in Doro decongestion site, a priority activity to promote the moving of families from congested areas.
- Hygiene promotion campaigns are a priority in all the four camps in Maban following reports of increased incidences of diarrhoea. Doro has seen a slight decrease in acute watery diarrhoea, possibly as a result of the campaigns.

### Identified needs and remaining gaps

#### Unity State

AT: More than 80 per cent of the reported latrines do not have any form of roof or door, and do not afford users privacy and dignity, nor are they separated into male and female latrines. UNHCR is working with partners to improve the situation.



## Logistics/Supply

### Unity State

- Security concerns between Abiemnhom and Pariang continue, causing delays in receiving NFIs from Juba.
- Delayed arrival of rub halls from Juba affected the offloading of commercial trucks from Juba. Rubhalls destined for Maban that could not be taken there due to the security situation, were offloaded in Jamjang. They will be replaced by others currently en route. This was done to relieve the many trucks at the Jamjang compound where there is a lack of space for offloading.

## IDP RESPONSE



## Protection

### Achievements and Impact

- On 22 May, the Protection Cluster, led by UNHCR, convened a Peer Review Team to assess its partners' revised project submissions for the Mid-Year Review of the Humanitarian Response Plan. Among other activities, the Review involved assessing the Cluster's achievements against its HRP targets. Significant progress has been made to date, notably on indicators related to children released from armed forces and groups (1,757 children released; 59 per cent on target) and to the number of protection monitoring reports released by the Cluster and its partners to inform the humanitarian response (34 reports released; 36 per cent on target).

### Unity State

- Bentiu POC: The number of new arrivals is on the increase because of a government offensive on opposition-controlled areas. 528 persons have been registered at the POC entrance gates by UNHCR within the reporting week. Most were children (405), mainly from Koch and Mayendit.
- Bentiu POC: UNHCR provided 13 solar street lights to UNMISS. They will be placed in strategic locations in the new POC site extension to enhance the security and safety of IDPs.

### Upper Nile State

- The biometric registration of IDPs and surrounding host communities in Maban County was completed on 15 May. 13,713 IDPs (4,430 households), and 9,392 host community members (3,278 households) were registered in 10 different locations (Orji, Dollo, Gasmalla, Offra, Banketa, Kilo Ashra, Bir Taltah, Dangaji, Benchul and Kongo Mamur).
- Maban County: The authorities have initiated discussions with IDPs on return to their villages of origin after a security assessment. If IDPs agree to return to their villages, they will require one-time assistance such as food, seeds and tools.
- Malakal: On 16 May all programming outside the UNMISS base was suspended due to limited movement; focus was placed on contingency planning and the relocation of newly arrived IDPs within the UNMISS POC site.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The Protection Cluster is responding to the situation in Upper Nile State, where the recent escalation of violence has displaced populations and forced humanitarians to evacuate. Following a special operational meeting on Upper Nile, a briefing note will be prepared to assess the protection implications of the offensive and consolidate the protection response.
- Given ongoing insecurity in southern Unity State, only one Protection actor has to date been able to return to Leer, where houses were burned and humanitarian assets looted. Residents are slowly beginning to return from the bush and will require urgent assistance. Humanitarian actors are closely monitoring the situation.
- The Protection Cluster is concerned about the illegal entrance of armed men into Bentiu POC, Unity State, despite regular UNMISS patrols and the presence of watch tower observers.

### **Unity State**

- Bentiu POC: UNHCR needs to build a field camp office in the new POC expansion site.

### **Upper Nile State**

- Before the fighting, some 25,000 IDPs in Melut evacuated Dinthoma 1, 2 and Hai Soma settlements towards Paloich (Paloch). The status and situation of these IDPs remains unknown as the situation does not allow any rapid assessment or protection monitoring.
- Melut County: UNHCR will assess the situation to re-establish its presence in Melut and/or Paloich as soon as the security situation allows.



## **Camp Coordination and Camp Management**

### **Achievements and Impact**

- Bentiu POC: All humanitarian agencies and many UNMISS staff mobilized on 21 May for a verification exercise during which IDPs in the POC were wrist-banded in a bid to fix the population living in the POC and facilitate their relocation to the new site extension next week.



## **Shelter and NFIs**

### **Achievements and Impact**

#### **Abyei**

- UNHCR distributed blankets, mosquito nets, plastic sheets, sleeping mats and kitchen sets to 60 families in IDP-like situations in Magar and 60 in Mijak Deng Kaya. UNHCR also supplied NFIs to 60 households from the host community in Mijak Deng Kaya.

#### **Jonglei State**

- 71 Vulnerable households received NFI kits in Laudeer sub-payam, Bor County.

#### **Lakes State**

- Mingkaman: The Humanitarian Development Consortium (HDC) held a meeting with UNHCR and the Norwegian Refugee Council on the handing over of the shelter programme to HDC.
- Cueibet County: Following advocacy efforts by UNHCR and UNICEF, SPLA soldiers have vacated Mayath boys' primary school in Mayath *payam*. UNHCR is in talks with the UN Mine Action Service to assess the school for unexploded ordnance.

#### **Unity State**

- UNHCR distributed NFIs to 1,103 most vulnerable IDPs (394 households) in Bentiu town (520 blankets, 575 sleeping mats, 187 kitchen sets and 333 mosquito nets).

### **Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps**

#### **Lakes State**

- Mingkaman: The issue of newly arriving IDPs taking over unoccupied/empty shelters remains a challenge. Monitoring of IDP sites to address conflict-related concerns may be required.

# FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to US\$ 107,503,209 as of 27 May 2015.

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with earmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

