

## SOUTH SUDAN

### UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE 1/2016

9 December 2015 to 11 January 2016

#### HIGHLIGHTS

**Efforts are underway to relocate refugees from Ezo settlement** - UNHCR Representative visited Yambio on 4 January to conduct high-level meetings with Government Officials and the Police Commissioner regarding security for refugees in Western Equatoria. Also, UNMISS agreed to deploy force protection personnel for road patrols and to facilitate the relocation of some 150 refugees from the fields around Ezo settlement to Makpandu camp in January. Before violence began in Western Equatoria in December 2015, Ezo was home to more than 3,200 Congolese refugees. Some 2,000 of them fled to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. UNHCR in the Central African Republic reported that 1,450 people arrived in Bambouti, Prefecture du Haut-Mbomou," from South Sudan.

**Inter-agency assessment reveals destruction in Yambio** - In December, UNHCR was part of an inter-agency mission to assess the magnitude of internal displacement in Yambio and determine the level of damages suffered by the population following the violence occurred from 7 to 10 December, including burning of houses and looting. The assessment team visited two areas, Nayure and Akorogbodi, hosting IDPs who fled from Ikpiro, Hai Tarawa, Asanza 1 and Asanza 2. According to the assessment, approximately 8,000 people remain in displaced in Yambio and nearly 200 houses were burnt down at Ikpiro and several hundred others were looted.

**UNHCR joins a inter-agency mission to Leer** - On 6 January, UNHCR Representative Ahmed Warsame undertook a field trip to Leer town and Thonyor, southern Unity State, together with the Humanitarian Coordinator, other UN Agencies and NGOs to review the humanitarian situation and response one month after humanitarian partners returned in the area in the first week of December. Food insecurity and malnutrition remain issues of major concern, with malnutrition rates nearly double the emergency threshold. UNHCR is looking into re-establishing an operational presence in Leer through the Norwegian Refugee Council.

**Registration of Burundian asylum seekers continues** - Since the escalation of violence in Burundi in September 2015, UNHCR registered and documented 384 Burundian asylum seekers in Juba.

**265,167,173 USD**

Funding requested for comprehensive needs in 2016

**119,938,894 USD**

Funding requested for top priority activities in 2016

#### Current population of concern

IDPs since 15 December 2013  1,660,000

Of them, 193,789 IDPs reside in UNMISS Protection of Civilians sites

Refugees in South Sudan  264,247

## OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

- Yambio and its environs continued to suffer from a spate of security incidents, following the fighting erupted between government forces and local groups (known as the “Arrow Boys”) on 7 December 2015. On 30 December Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA) soldiers were ambushed in Saura, 12 km south west of Yambio, and a military operation began there on 3 January 2016 between SPLA and armed youth. Armed skirmishes also occurred on the Nzara-Yambio road on 3 January rendering the road impassable. It is estimated that some 8,000 were displaced in Yambio County and another 7,000 in Tambura County.
- On 7 January 2016, under the auspices of Festus Mogae the Chairman of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission, the representatives of the Government of South Sudan, the Opposition, the Former Detainees’ Group and the Political Parties agreed on the allocation of ministerial portfolios: 16 for the ruling party in government, 10 for the SPLM-IO, two for the Former Detainees’ Group and another two for other political parties.
- On 24 December, President Salva Kiir issued a Republican Decree appointing Governors to the 28 states, which came into effect that same day. The creation of additional 18 states in October 2015 was backed by the South Sudanese parliament in November.
- The first SPLM-IO advance team of 150 members arrived in Juba from their headquarters in Upper Nile’s Pakag and Ethiopia’s Gambella, on 21 December 2015, led by the Opposition Chief Negotiator, Taban Deng Gai, and the Secretary General Dheui Mathok Wol. Additional 70 opposition representatives were deployed in the first week of January, with 300 others expected to arrive in the week of 11 January. The entire proposed advance team of 609 people is to be embedded in various parliamentary committees and working groups in Juba as well as in government institutions at state level as part of the implementation of different facets of the peace deal.
- In mid-December, South Sudan devalued its currency by 84 per cent, increasing the exchange rate from SSP 2.96 per USD to SSP 18.5 per USD. The devaluation of the currency comes amidst the backdrop of significant hard currency shortages and may have a significant socio-economic impact for people at the bottom of the pyramid.
- On 31 December 2015, FEWS NET published its December Food Security Outlook Update, highlighting the continuation of an acute food Emergency (IPC Phase 4) in central Unity State and the likelihood that it extends to parts of Jonglei and Upper Nile states worst affected by conflict between January and March 2016.

## REFUGEE RESPONSE



### Protection

#### Achievements and Impact

##### Central Equatoria State

- In Juba, UNHCR profiled and registered 241 Burundian asylum-seekers, with a total of 384 individuals (342 males and 42 females) documented so far in South Sudan.
- At the Medical and Protection Safe House in Juba, UNHCR distributed second-hand clothes to 60 refugees who are currently in town for outpatient medical treatment.
- In Lasu refugee settlement, UNHCR organized a one-day workshop on peaceful coexistence for the host community and refugees, with the participation of 30 chiefs from host community and 30 refugee leaders. The workshop served as a platform for the host community and refugees to promote harmony, peace and cooperation.
- In Yei, UNHCR and the Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA) registered 230 Sudanese refugee families seeking relocation from Yei town to Lasu refugee settlement due to lack of food production, education and medical services in town.

## Western Equatoria State

- Fighting between government forces and local groups in Western Equatoria -erupted in December 2015- forced more 3,200 Congolese refugees to flee from their homes in Ezo settlement and seek safety in the fields around the settlement as well as in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). As of 7 January 2016, UNHCR in the DRC registered 6,188 new arrivals, including 4,171 South Sudanese refugees and another 2,017 Congolese returnees who were living as refugees in South Sudan. The latter fled mostly from Ezo settlement, whose population stood at 3,266 before instability in Western Equatoria began. While Ezo settlement remains deserted at the present time, some 150 refugees, who found safety in the fields around Ezo, sought UNHCR's assistance for relocation to safer areas. UNHCR engaged in high-level discussions with government officials in Yambio and Juba to ensure that refugees are protected. Also, UNMISS agreed to deploy force protection personnel for road patrols and to facilitate the relocation these refugees to Makpandu in January.

## Education

### Achievements and Impact

#### Upper Nile State

- In Bunj Secondary School, 111 candidates from both the host community and refugee population registered with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology to write the National Secondary School Leaving Certificate Examinations.
- In Doro refugee camp, 390 pupils graduated from seven schools following their participation in the Child and Youth Resilience Program. The resilience program is designed to equip school pupils with life skills necessary for survival.

#### Central Equatorial State

- In Lasu refugee camp, 47 Primary School candidates (13 girls and 34 boys) wrote the 2015 Primary Leaving Examination.
- In Gorom refugee settlement, 18 pupils and three adult learners from the Accelerated Learning Programme completed their Primary Leaving Examination (PLE) in Godo primary school.

#### Western Equatoria State

- In Makpandu refugee settlement, UNHCR partner World Vision International (WVI) delivered chairs and desks to secondary and primary schools.

### Identified needs and remaining gaps

#### Central Equatoria State

- In Lasu refugee settlement, the rate of school dropout for girls due to early marriage and pregnancy continued to be a challenge. From January 2015 to date, 186 girls dropped out of the two primary schools in Lasu. UNHCR and its partner ACROSS continue to explore avenues to stem the tide of dropouts.



## Food Security and Nutrition

### Achievements and Impact

#### Central Equatoria State

- In Lasu refugee settlement, WFP completed December's General Food Distribution for 9,830 refugees. Food rations include sorghum, yellow peas, vegetable oil and salt at 70 per cent monthly ration scale.

#### Upper Nile State

- UNHCR airlifted a ten-month stock of drug and nutrition supplies to Maban camps, including plumpy nuts.

**Western Equatoria State**

- In Makpandu, UNHCR partner WVI completed November and December's General Food Distribution for 3,846 refugees. Commodities such as salt and vegetable oil were distributed at a reduced 30 per cent while cereals were 100 per cent to compensate for the lack of pulses.

**Identified needs and remaining gaps****Upper Nile**

- Small rain intensity raised concerns on food security among the host communities of Maban. With crop performance expected to be poor following 2015 harvest, host communities are expected to run out of food stocks in late January/early February.

**Health****Achievements and Impact****Upper Nile State**

- In the four refugee camps in Maban, UNHCR and health partners concluded the fourth round of National Immunization Days (NIDs), reaching 100 per cent of children under 5 years. The immunization campaign included polio vaccination and vitamin A supplementation activities.

**Central Equatoria State**

- UNHCR delivered a 10-month stock of assorted medical drugs to partner ACROSS for delivery of medical services in Lasu refugee settlement.

**Shelter and NFIs****Achievements and Impact****Upper Nile State**

- In Batil and Doro refugee camps, UNHCR and partners delivered sanitary kits to 11,675 women and girls of reproductive, including sanitary cloths, underwear, and soap.
- In Doro refugee camp, UNHCR partner Danish Refugee Council (DRC) completed 2,085 shelter units out of 2,246 planned for 2015. Seventy-five shelters are in progress.
- In Batil refugee camp, UNHCR partner DRC completed 375 shelter units out of 570 planned for 2015. Forty-five shelters are in progress.
- In Gendrassa refugee camp, UNHCR partner ACTED completed 768 shelter units, as per 2015 plan.
- UNHCR partner ACTED and DRC completed 100 shelters for the host communities of Maban out of 190 planned for 2015. Sixty shelters are in progress.

**Western Equatoria State**

- In Makpandu, UNHCR partner WVI procured construction materials for the establishment of two transit centres in anticipation of the relocation of Ezo-based refugees.



## Water and Sanitation

### Achievements and Impact

#### Central Equatoria State

- In Lasu refugee settlement, UNHCR partner ACROSS distributed soap to 5,880 refugees to promote personal hygiene practices in the camp.

#### Upper Nile State

- In Yusuf Batil and Doro refugee camps, the quantity of water supply increased within minimum standards of 20 liters per person per day. In Kaya and Gendrassa refugee camps, the water supply dropped by 3 liters due to disruption caused by operators at the pumping stations, with a supply of 19.2 liters per person per day.
- In Maban refugee camps the sanitation situation remains normal with an average number of 14 persons per latrine.

### Identified needs and remaining gaps

#### Upper Nile State

- The drilling of additional boreholes in key host community locations remains of critical importance.



## Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

### Achievements and Impact

#### Western Equatoria State

- In Makpandu refugee settlement, UNHCR partner WVI distributed 50 ducks to 25 vulnerable refugees to help them improve their livelihoods.
- In Makpandu refugee settlement, UNHCR conducted a training for farmers on harvest and post-harvest handling, plants management and disease identification. This training is designed to help farmers improve harvesting system and storage in order to have pure seeds and produce.



## Camp Coordination and Camp Management

#### Central Equatoria State

- UNHCR continued to work on the construction of the access road from Lasu refugee camp to Kukuyi farm land. So far, nearly four kilometers have been graded and the first layer of marrum applied. Bush clearance and alignment have been done to the end of 6.3km.

## IDP RESPONSE



### Protection

#### COORDINATION

##### Achievements and Impact

- In Juba, the Protection Cluster released a Protection Situation Update on Mundri West and Mundri East counties, Western Equatoria State. The update reviewed humanitarian developments since May 2015 presents protection concerns and information on the response and proposes recommendations. It is available to download here: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/south-sudan/document/protection-situation-update-mundri-west-and-east-counties-western>

- In Juba, the Protection Cluster release a Protection Situation Update on Leer County, southern Unity State, highlighting security developments since the attacks of late October 2015, protection concerns, the humanitarian return to Leer Town and Thonyor in early December, the response and remaining protection gaps, and recommendations for humanitarian actors. It is available to download here:  
<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/south-sudan/document/protection-situation-update-leer-county-southern-unity-october-%E2%80%93>
- In Juba, the Protection Cluster defended its Strategy for the first allocation of the 2016 Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF). The Cluster was granted USD 2.25 million. The funding will support protection projects prioritising Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) prevention and response, child protection, protective accompaniment activities, mine clearance, and conflict mitigation in Protection of Civilians (POC) sites and potential areas of return.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Discussions regarding the future of POC sites to continue. The Protection Cluster is engaging with the UNMISS POC Unit's Technical Working Group, which is conducting a Strategic Review of the POC sites. The Cluster aims to ensure that protection concerns are at the centre of the discussions, notably with regards to ensuring that the relocation or local integration of IDPs is both voluntary and based on informed consent.

### OPERATIONS

#### **Central Equatoria State**

- UNHCR together with South Sudan medical commission issued 107 age assessment certificates to IDPs residing in the Mahad area, as part of a broader project aiming at preventing statelessness in South Sudan and facilitating access to government services and employment through the provision of documentation.

#### **Upper Nile State**

- In Malakal, UNHCR and partners from the Protection Cluster participated in a three-day training workshop organized for the 148 community police in the POC site. Sessions included humanitarian principles, general protection and SGBV.

#### **Lakes State**

- South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) reported that 137 IDPs arrived in Rumbek from southern Unity State in the second and third week of December 2015 due to conflict and hunger. They are currently hosted in Denghial in Rumbek Centre.
- In a recent visit to Denghial, UNHCR found various groups of women and children sitting under trees in Denghial. Among them were many people who have been displaced from Mayendit, Unity State, between April and December 2015. Other came from Rumbek North mostly in search of food, including women from the host community.

#### **Western Equatoria State**

- In December, UNHCR was part of an inter-agency mission to assess the magnitude of internal displacement in Yambio and determine the level of damages suffered by the population following the violence occurred from 7 to 10 December, including burning of houses and looting. The assessment team visited two areas, Nayure and Akorogbodi, hosting IDPs who fled from Ikpiro, Hai Tarawa, Asanza 1 and Asanza 2. According to the assessment, some 10,000 people have been forced from their homes in Yambio and approximately 8,000 remain in displacement and have not returned to their homes. Nearly 200 houses were burnt down at Ikpiro and several hundred others were looted.

## Shelter and NFIs

### Achievements and Impact

#### Central Equatoria State

- UNHCR distributed plastic sheeting to 352 families in the POC site in Juba. The distribution targeted some vulnerable families whose shelters were destroyed by heavy rains in early October 2015.

#### Western Equatoria State

- In December, UNHCR distributed washing soaps to some 1,000 IDP families who found refuge inside the ADRA compound.

#### Lakes State

- In December, the NFI and Protection Clusters verified 361 vulnerable IDP families in Wulu and another 232 in Kuel Kuac. These IDPs were displaced at various times from Mundri in Western Equatoria, Rumbek East and Rumbek Centre in Lakes State. Following the verification, UNHCR, Plan and Action Africa Help International (AAHI) provided IDPs with non-food items (NFIs).
- In Mingkaman, UNHCR distributed NFIs to 467 extremely vulnerable families as well as sanitary cloth and soap to 750 women and girls in Mariik, Yolakot and Kalthok. NFIs included jerri-cans, mosquito nets, plastic sheet, soaps, sanitary cloth, blankets, and kitchen set based on the need identified in a joint interagency assessment.

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to USD 114,158,790 as of 22 December 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.

### Funding received (in USD)

