

## SOUTH SUDAN

### UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE 13/2016

1 – 20 July 2016

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **UNHCR participates in a joint protection assessment at the UN House –** Following the fighting which erupted between SPLA and IO on July 8 2016 causing massive displacements in the Juba city residential areas including Gudele, Jebel Checkpoint, Atlabara, Munuki and Lologo, UNHCR joined a joint protection assessment at the UN House (POC 1 and POC 3) on 17 July. During the exercise, UNHCR identified 71 persons with specific needs including elderly at risk, Widows with small children and single mothers.
- **UNHCR hotline for urban refugees in Juba:** Following the outbreak violence in Juba, UNHCR informed urban refugees of the existing hotline for emergency and urgent matters. Refugees are using the platform to communicate issues about looting of their houses, loss of ID documentation, food shortages and insecurity in Juba. To date over 100 calls have been received, with information on the sad death of two refugees during the unrest in Juba.
- **UNHCR mobile response team completes assessment in Wau –** In Wau, UNHCR mobile response team completed an assessment in Lokololo, Cathedral, and Nazareth IDP collective sites in Wau. Their assessment followed the June 24 violence in Wau, which displaced more than 40,000 people in Wau and 37,000 outside the town. UNHCR assessed and noted protection needs of the most vulnerable internally displaced people and planned for targeted assistance, including distribution of non-food items.

#### Current population of concern

IDPs since 15 December 2013  1,690,000

Refugees in South Sudan  264,204

**275,668,213 USD**

Funding requested for comprehensive needs in 2016

**121,749,542 USD**

Funding requested for prioritized needs in 2016

## OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

- **Fighting breaks out in Juba:** On Friday, 8 July 2016 around 5 pm, heavy gunfire erupted between Government forces under President Salva Kiir (SPLM IG) and forces loyal to the First Vice President, Dr. Riek Machar (SPLM-In Opposition (IO)) during a press conference being held at the State House (South Sudan's presidential palace). The press conference was preceded by a discussion by both parties on the killing of five SPLM soldiers by IO forces that took place on Thursday 7 July in Juba town. Fighting continued until late 11 July, with use of heavy artillery, attack helicopters, tanks and light weapons across the city, with the most intense fighting noted around Gudele, the Presidential Palace Area, Jebel and surroundings, Tomping, UN House and UNMISS Tomping and the airport. Estimates of numbers killed are not verified, but are in excess of 270 people, including 30 civilians, with the death toll likely to rise. OCHA preliminary estimates indicated that at least 36,000 people (including estimated 7,000 inside the POC sites) were displaced by the fighting in Juba sheltering at various locations throughout the city, including the UNMISS base in Tomping, UN House, WFP, ADRA as well as churches and cathedrals. Current estimates note up to 11,000 additionally displaced into UN sites, and 4,500 still in collective sites such as Don Bosco Gumbo in Juba. This brings the current total of IDPs in Juba to over 63,000 including those who were already displaced before the recent fighting.
- **Government orders ceasefire:** At around 17:00, the President Kiir announced unilateral ceasefire through the Republican Order NO.17/2016 for the Declaration of Cessation of Hostilities between the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and the Sudan People's Liberation Army in Opposition (SPLA-IO) to be effective from 18:00, 11 July. The President ordered all SPLA forces to return to their units and barracks, and directed all the Commanders to control their forces and protect the civil population and their property. The order was read on a national TV by the Information Minister. The SPLA Chief of Staff General Paul Malong further ordered through a military spokesman that all troops not participating in operations in Juba, to return to barracks. In reciprocity, the 1st Vice President Riek Machar announced the SPLA-IO's agreement to the ceasefire with immediate effect. The ceasefire continues to hold.
- **Clashes in Mundri, Central Equatoria and Torit, Eastern Equatoria:** on 11 July morning, armed clashes erupted in Mundri town (Central Equatoria) between armed youths and the SPLA. Clashes were also reported in Lainya, Kajo-Keji and Yei surrounding areas (Central Equatoria) between Government forces and armed groups. Clashes in Central Equatoria subsequently subsided; the UNHCR Yei Office confirmed that the situation remained calm in Yei town, though increased population movements were observed. On 11 July, fighting was also reported in Torit (Eastern Equatoria). Reportedly, thousands of IDPs rushed to the UNMISS based and forced their way into the UN compound through the main entrance. UNHCR no longer has Office/staff presence in Torit, but maintains a rub hall and a container at the UNMISS Torit base. Security in Wau, Western Bahr El Ghazal remains unpredictable, with reports of artillery fire several kilometres outside the town in the morning of 12 July, with no further escalation in Wau Town. UNHCR and most of humanitarian agencies operating in Wau had to temporarily suspend work outside of wau following a security incident on 08 July when an interagency humanitarian convoy returning from southwest areas of Wau county was stooped and humanitarian aid workers threatened at a gun point by government security agencies. It is estimated that over 50,000 IDPs and vulnerable host communities outside of Wau are currently facing extremely difficult situation with shortages in food and NFIs, while medical assistance has been only partially possible to deliver through health facilities supported by MSF and ICRC.
- **Situation in Unity State:** Renewed fighting east of Leer in southern Unity put on halt majority of humanitarian operations, forcing most of humanitarian actors to evacuate from the area, while recently reestablished humanitarian compounds and assets following fighting in mid-2015 were yet again ransacked and looted. UNHCR's partner NRC was also forced to suspend operations with a number of national staff being forced to seek safety in swamps and islands within the area. The well-established out- of- Bentiu strategy that has ensured in the past several months that humanitarian assistance and services are extended to address the needs of the population outside the POC site has also suffered a setback following reports on renewed fighting in Buaw, while population in the POC site was sharply increased by an influx of estimated 10,000 persons, including a significant number that were previously residing in the POC site but decided earlier in the year to leave and reestablish themselves in the areas of Unity state including areas of origin;

- **UN Secretary General, Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (JMEC), IGAD call for sanctions and protection force:** Further to the UN Secretary General's call for an arms embargo to South Sudan, targeted sanctions and a re-enforcement of UNMISS, including attack helicopters, these recommendations have been further endorsed by the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Committee under the Peace Agreement, who further recommended to IGAD that cantonment of armed forces should happen immediately, access for humanitarians should be granted, and that the IGAD endorse a regional protection force. During the AU Summit on 18 July, leaders also expressed support for a regional protection force, with details to be released in an imminent statement. The US Senate Foreign Relations Committee also released a statement on 18 July, where they endorsed the proposal for a UN or regional force to act as buffer between the two parties and allow for free flow of humanitarian aid.
- Due to the **prevailing security situation in Yei**, after a military attachment was attacked on 12 of July close to Yei, the road between Yei and Lasu refugee settlement, where 10,000 refugees reside, remains impassible. UNHCR is in contact with the refugees daily, where security remains calm.
- The unrest in Juba and other parts of South Sudan has precipitated movements of people, predominately into Uganda, with further movements likely as borders are opened and check points diminish along key road arteries.

## REFUGEE RESPONSE

Despite the ongoing instability in Juba and other areas across South Sudan, UNHCR is continuing to provide assistance in Juba as the situation allows, and other areas of operation remain functional through our offices across the country, in particular the large refugee operations of Maban in Upper Nile and Jamjang in Unity. Due to the UN wide communique on 13 July from the Senior Representative of the Secretary General in South Sudan, ordering the temporary relocation of some non-critical staff, UNHCR international staffing in Juba still remains at two thirds capacity after relocation of a small amount of non-essential staff, who are working remotely.

### Protection

#### Achievements and Impact

##### Upper Nile

- In Maban, UNHCR partner Lutheran World Federation (LWF) in collaboration with Makerere University in Uganda, organized a 10-day child and youth protection training starting from 11 July 2016 for both child protection and education partners. The training equipped participants with basic knowledge of child and youth protection and skills necessary to enhance actual field practices.

##### Unity

- In Yida settlement, UNHCR registered 440 new arrivals, representing a 34% increase compared to the previous two week period. Cumulatively, 8,845 new arrivals have been registered in Yida since the beginning of the year. UNHCR also relocated 1,071 refugees from Yida to Ajuong Thok camp during the reporting period, representing a 50% increase compared to the previous period. Amongst the refugees relocated, 588 were previously registered in Yida. Cumulatively 12,564 refugees have been relocated from Yida to Ajuong Thok since the beginning of the year, amongst them 3,802 refugees previously registered in Yida.

##### Central Equatoria

- Following the outbreak violence in Juba, UNHCR sent an SMS bulk message to refugees in English and Arabic informing them of the existing hotline for emergency and urgent matters. Refugees are using the platform to communicate issue about looting of their houses, loss of ID documentation, food shortages and insecurity in Juba. To date over 100 calls have been received.
- UNHCR is currently assessing the protection situation in Gorom refugee camp. After the conflict in Juba, the road to Gorm remains insecure, which make humanitarian delivery difficult to reach to the people in need. UNHCR partner

ACROSS supplied drug stocks to the medical clinic on 20 July, but the school remains closed. The food shortage remains a major problem for refugees, which is particularly affecting children, and as security improves delivery of food is the first priority. To date, approximately 2,098 refugees and asylum-seekers reside in the camp including 433 of persons with specific needs.

- 23 refugees remain in Juba Safehouse including 10 protection and seven medically vulnerable refugees and 6 caretakers. UNHCR partner ACROSS is planning to assess food prices in order to determine the amount of one-time cash assistance to refugees due to the difficulty to access food and increase of price in Juba. For emergency preparedness, UNHCR and ACROSS are discussing storing limited quantities of food and water in the Safehouse as contingency plan.
- UNHCR partner ACROSS was able to send an ambulance with drugs to Lasu to replenish Lasu Primary Health Care Center which was short of essential drugs, with the Yei-Lasu road opening for traffic again on 20 July. Refugees who were reported displaced within the villages in the camp due to fear have returned to their respective villages.

## Education

### Achievements and Impact

#### Upper Nile

- In Yusuf Batil and Gendrassa camps, UNHCR partner Lutheran World Federation (LWF) distributed 120 cartons totalling 17,040 exercise books to seven primary schools. In Doro camp, UNHCR partners Save the Children with the support of Danish Refugee Council (DRC) reopened the seven primary schools that suspended activities due to issues between refugees and host community in May.

#### Unity

- In Ajuong Thok Camp, UNHCR partner LWF partnered with Emmanuel Christian College to conduct in-service training of teachers. Currently, 74 teachers are taking part in the training which is expected to increase the number of qualified teachers from the current 10 to 94. UNHCR also supported 62 new students with learning materials in the secondary school, bringing the total number of learners assisted in 2016 to 1,564.

## Water and Sanitation

### Achievements and Impact

#### Unity

- In Yida settlement and Ajuong Thok camp, the average water coverage stood respectively at 15.33 and 17.3 litres per person per day. 1,954 refugees, 198 of them new arrivals, were also reached with health and hygiene awareness sensitization. 168 households were addressed with hygiene promotion awareness, while 106 bars of 150g soap was given to new arrivals. In Ajuong Thok and Pamir camps, UNHCR has also constructed 25 Institutional/communal latrines using local materials.

#### Upper Nile

- In Maban, the water supply ranged between 19 and 20 litres per person per day as a result of ongoing rains. The average water supply before the rainy season ranged between 21 and 25.

#### Western Equatoria

- In Makpandu camp, UNHCR completed the drilling and platform construction of three boreholes including one at the primary school, bringing the total number of boreholes in the camp to 11. The aim is to ensure a minimum of 20 litres per person per day, an increase from the current water supply of 16.7.

## Food Security and Nutrition

### Achievements and Impact

#### Unity

- In Ajuong Thok camp, UNHCR and partners screened 78 new arrival children under five years for malnutrition through Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) test. As a result, 10 percent were found to suffer from severe acute malnutrition and 30 percent from moderate acute malnutrition. They were all referred for Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme (TSFP) in the camp.

#### Upper Nile

- In Gendrassa, Kaya refugee camps, and surrounding host community in Maban County; UNHCR partner ACTED established ten farmer field schools as well as four Agro Pastoral Field Schools each comprising 20 members to promote farmer self-learning and improved farming practices. ACTED has also facilitated the formation of nine school gardens and kitchen gardening clubs comprising parents, pupils and teachers.

## Shelter and NFIs

### Achievements and Impact

#### Unity

- In Ajuong Thok camp, UNHCR distributed 268 shelter kits to refugees, cumulatively 3,307 shelter kits have been distributed since the beginning of 2016. UNHCR also distributed 154 family tents to refugees; cumulatively 712 family tents have been distributed since the beginning of 2016 to refugees relocating from Yida to Ajuong Thok. 324 emergency shelters were also given to new arrivals; cumulatively 4,063 shelters have been provided in 2016 at Ajuong Thok and in Pamir.

#### Upper Nile

- In Yusuf Batil camp, UNHCR and partner DRC distributed different second-hand clothes to 8,442 households of 38,323 refugees.

## Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

### Achievements and Impact

#### Upper Nile

- In Yusuf Batil and Doro refugee camps, UNHCR and its partners completed the establishment of 40 Village Saving Loans Associations and offered basic financial literacy training to facilitate increased access to capital for income generating activities. Overall the loan portfolio stands at 108,900 South Sudan Pounds, where members have been able to borrow loans to undertake income-generating activities as well as pay back the loans regularly with interest.

#### Western Equatoria

- In Makpandu settlement, 149 households received agricultural lands of 100 square meters per each farmer for the second planting sessions. Recipients included some new asylum seekers. 147 farmers (46 female, 101 male) out of 149 received agricultural tools. Tools received included hoes, machetes, rakes, and slashers.

## IDP RESPONSE



### OPERATIONS

#### Upper Nile

- In Malakal, UNHCR identified and assisted 1,300 persons with specific needs during the General Food Distribution.

#### Central Equatoria

- Following the fighting in Juba on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2016 which caused massive displacements in the Juba city residential areas including Gudele, Jebel Checkpoint, Atla bara, Munuki and Lologo. UNHCR participated a joint protection assessment at the UN House (POC 1 and POC 3) on 17<sup>th</sup> July. During the exercise, UNHCR identified 71 persons with specific needs including elderly at risk, widows with small children, and single mothers at UN House.
- Gender-based violence (GBV) remains a concern. Women and girls are fearing to step out of the POC to bring food for families due to presence of military outside the gates. UNHCR is working with IRC on the expansion of the SGBV programme in UN house and its extension to Juba urban areas.
- UNHCR received a referral by IsraelAid for an assessment at the Juba Way station, reportedly hosting some 3,000 IDPs. Juba Way station is situated in a highly militarized area of town, close to a check point and the population is initially assessed as highly vulnerable. An assessment will be scheduled and given the proximity to the UNHCR warehouse, distribution of basic items may be organised in coordination with other partners.
- UNHCR partner HDC's Protection team visited Don Bosco collective center on 20 July. Approximately 200 families out of estimated 1,000 have been registered to date to receive assistance. The UNHCR truck safely arrived at the site with 1,000 sleeping mats which will be distributed in coming days.

#### Western Bahr al Ghazal

In Wau town across various the locations, there are just over 40,000 displaced, including 20,496 registered in the UNMISS Protected area adjacent to the UNMISS base. UNHCR mobile response team completed an assessment in Lokololo, Cathedral and Nazareth IDP collective sites within Wau. UNHCR is in discussion with IDPs within St Pauls' Cathedral, where approximately 13,000 people are residing, for further targeted assistance in collaboration with humanitarian partners. UNHCR assessed and assisted protection needs of the most vulnerable internally displaced people and planned for targeted assistance, including distribution of non-food items. UNHCR assisted the Maternity Section of the health unit with 40 mosquito nets, 80 pieces of washing soap, and 80 pieces of sanitary material, with assistance to PSNs taking place on 20 July 2016.

### Funding received (in USD)

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to USD 49,279,242 as of 30 June 2016. 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.

