

Flash Update on Upper Nile State

Upper Nile has become one of the most volatile regions since conflict broke out in South Sudan on 15 December 2013, with numbers of displaced persons currently reported as 186,000 overall.

Upper Nile state has the highest number of refugees in South Sudan. Of the 125,897 who are registered, close to 125,000 are living in four camps in faraway Maban County which is adjacent to Sudan's volatile Blue Nile state. In addition, close to 1,000 Sudanese refugees from the Nuba Mountains self-settled in Lelo along the western bank of the Nile River north of Malakal.

DEVELOPMENTS

- Refugee outflows from South Sudan to neighboring countries are approaching the 250,000 mark, as Ethiopia reports 1,000 new arrivals every week from Jonglei and Upper Nile states.
- UNHCR is gravely concerned about the situation in Maban County where clashes between refugee and host communities, insecurity along transportation routes, and continuing lack of food supplies, are threatening a humanitarian crisis.
- Security related incidents ranging from petty theft to serious crime continue in Maban County. Armed criminals ransack warehouses and NGO compounds for fuel, food items such as sorghum and sugar, items that can be sold for quick money.
- A timely decision by the Governments of South Sudan and of Ethiopia to allow humanitarian supplies through Gambella, Ethiopia will enable WFP to start delivery of much needed food commodities for internally displaced persons and refugees in Maban County in the coming days.
- After several days of shelling and gun fire on the outskirts of Malakal, Upper Nile State capital, pro-government forces reportedly re-took control of the town mid-week. Anticipating possible clashes between pro- and anti-government forces over control of Malakal, UN and INGO staff remain on high alert.

These children are among 1,300 IDPs in Beneshawa, Maban County who were found by humanitarian actors feeding on wild leaves and roots during a recent monitoring mission. They comprised women, children, and elderly and sickly individuals who were left behind when the larger group of 3,500 IDPs moved on towards Ethiopia for lack of food Aid organizations including WFP agreed to immediately provide them 15-day food ration and nutritional supplies. [UNHCR/P. Rulashe]



REFUGEE OPERATIONS

Upper Nile State

Delivery of relief items

- There is a need to ensure adequate supplies are in place before the onset of the rains or else all deliveries will have to be undertaken by costly air movements. Assistance to refugees, including food and essential nutrition products has been challenging in the current context with ongoing hostilities along the key transport routes.
- During the first week of March refugees across Maban's four camps received a 10-day ration of pulses and oil. Pulses and oil cover only 24% of the daily energy needs of 2100kcal. Shortages have left refugees without cereals and salt for more than one month. Other key NFI including fuel, essential medicines and core relief items are quickly running out.
- While the current malnutrition rates are stable in all but one of the Upper Nile refugee camps, there is a serious risk of deterioration in the health and nutrition status of the most vulnerable populations including children under five, pregnant and lactating women, and the elderly if the full food basket is not reinstated. There is a need for the full food support as well as access to markets for additional fresh food items, both of which have been constrained due to the conflict. The nutrition situation in these camps remains fragile and it is important that the essential health, WASH, and outreach services continue in order to identify those malnourished or at risk who require additional support.
- Challenges remain in the pre-positioning of shelter material. Pre-fabrication of shelters in Kaya with materials available resumed this week. The delivery of additional material is still awaited.

Nutrition

- In Doro, Samaritan's Purse completed the first TSFP cycle for children under five years of age. A month's session of TSFP for pregnant and lactating women (PLW) in Mayak, Belilah, Penamayo and Borfa was also completed. In total 1,110 children received a two-week supply of plumpy sup and 2,872 mothers received month's supply of six kilogram of CSB++.
- In Yusuf Batil, in addition to TSFP activities, all PLW were given a full month's supply of CSB++.
- In Kaya and Gendrassa, IMC completed TSFP and

DIALOGUE DIFFUSES TENSIONS

Following a series of meetings and dialogue with County authorities, host community and refugee leadership, UNHCR convened a meeting with the stakeholders on 20 March.

Refugee leaders stated that calls for their expulsion had generated fear and panic within the refugee community. They proposed consultations among elders from host and refugee communities to resolve disputes, and supported establishment of joint committees to proactively address issues as they arise.

The **Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA)**, as the institution mandated by the Government to liaise with UNHCR and partners for protection of refugees in South Sudan, pledged to spearhead peace and reconciliation initiatives. CRA is responsible for camp administration, and will immediately organize elections and hold the refugee leadership accountable to the refugees in all camps.

The **Maban County Commissioner** called on UNHCR and CRA to continue dialogue with host and refugee communities. He cautioned youth from both sides against involvement in unlawful activities, and urged leaders not to condone unlawful behavior. He announced that the Ministry of Interior will deploy 50 additional police officers to maintain law and order in the Maban refugee camps. He directed the civilian character of refugee camps must be maintained, and ordered that all political activities in the camps must cease with immediate effect. He urged refugees to resume their normal activities within the County including visiting local markets, collecting firewood and keeping livestock within the vicinity of the camps.

UNHCR's Head of Office reiterated the need for engagement between communities, and urged refugee leaders to use traditional mechanisms to resolve disputes with the host community. He briefed the refugee leaders on efforts being made to bring food to Maban camps as soon as possible despite immense logistical challenges.

OTP activities. At facility level 75 ill children aged under five years were screened for MUAC at in Kaya while 154 were screened in Gendrassa.

Refugee and host community relations

- Tensions between refugees and host communities deteriorated sharply in recent weeks, with bloody clashes and worrying calls for all refugees to be removed from Yusuf Batil and Gendrassa camps. Recent altercations around these camps have resulted in fatalities among both refugee and host communities. Hostilities spread in varying degrees to Doro and Kaya camps.
- Thousands of refugees in Gendrassa camp held a peaceful protest march against insecurity in the camps, and appealed to the authorities and UNHCR to continue protecting them against victimization and harassment.
- While competition for limited natural resources (firewood for cooking, thatching for houses) has been a concern since the refugees arrived, increased tensions have been attributed to the lean season exacerbated by increasing food insecurity within South Sudan.
- UNHCR conducted an assessment of host community villages around Batil Camp that were affected by skirmishes. A response plan will entail provision of food and NFIs as well as WASH and health interventions.
- The Child Protection Working Group deliberated over the importance of working closely with

INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT STATISTICS

STATE	POPULATION
Abyei Adminstrative Area	2,600
Central Equatoria	101,100
Eastern Equatoria	65,800
Jonglei	145,700
Lakes	76,400
Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal	1,200
Unity	186,000
Upper Nile	116,300
Warrap	13,100
Western Bahr-el-Ghazal	700
Western Equatoria	0
TOTAL	708,900

Source: OCHA Humanitarian Snapshot (20 Mar 2014)

SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEES IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

COUNTRY OF ASYLUM	10-Mar-14	14-Mar-14	Increase/ (Decrease)
Ethiopia	69,456	75,788	6,332
Kenya	26,218	28,243	2,025
Sudan	44,111	58,242	14,131
Uganda	82,242	86,849	4,607
TOTAL	222,027	249,122	27,095

Source: UNHCR Country Offices (19 March 2014)

refugee youth in light of recent developments between refugees and host community members. The Working Group plans to building the capacity of the youth in order to minimize idleness to curb social ills refugee youth are inclined to participate in.

IDP RESPONSE

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

Upper Nile state

Maban County

- Following the recent lifting of security prohibition on missions to IDP locations in Maban, UNHCR and inter-agency teams found 1,300 IDPs in Beneshawa, Nurashin and Jinshella had resorted to feeding on bitter *lolop* leaves (local wild tree) as a means of sustenance, with moderately acute malnourishment amongst women and children.
- Consequently, UNHCR, WFP and other humanitarian organizations distributed NFI and a 15 day ration of sorghum, pulses, oil and salt
- Recommendations were made to urgently provide mobile health services, latrines and boreholes. Common health concerns at the sites include conjunctivitis, diarrhea and respiratory tract infections. Presently, IDP women in Nurashin are walking distances of up to three hours to fetch water, which exposes them to sexual and gender-based violence.

Malakal

- The Protection Cluster has prioritized access to services including food and NFI support for the

SUDANESE REFUGEES IN UNITY AND UPPER NILE

		CAMP	09 MAR
UNITY STATE	Pariang County	Ajuong Thok	9,374
		Yida	70,529
		Sub-total	79,903
UPPER NILE STATE	Maban County	Doro	48,049
		Gendrassa	17,543
		Kaya	19,215
		Yusuf Batil	39,653
		Lelo	956
		Sub-total	125,416
		TOTAL	205,319

Source: UNHCR Regional Web Portal (17 Mar 2014)
[\[http://data.unhcr.org/SouthSudan/regional.php\]](http://data.unhcr.org/SouthSudan/regional.php)

elderly. Immobility and ill health pose serious challenges for the elderly to access health facilities which are all located in centralized areas.

- CCCM is working to establish a Committee to focus on needs of elderly persons, and requested the Health & Nutrition Cluster to look into establishing community based health support networks.
- No NFI distributions were conducted this week due to limited stock of some commodities and challenges of stock replenishment from Juba.

- Expansion of the current UNMISS PoC Site is in progress. UNHCR will contribute shelter material, demands for which will increase with the rains.

Melut

- Distribution will begin as soon as stocks arrive and once the estimated IDP population figures are verified.

Jodha

- In Jodha, distribution will be supported from Renk by MedAir and IOM.

DISPLACED SEEKING PROTECTION IN UNMISS "PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS" (PoC) SITES

STATE	LOCATION	POPULATION	
		10-Mar-14	19-Mar-14
Central Equatoria	Juba (Tompson)	27,580	21,000
	Juba (UN House)	15,744	11,000
Jonglei	Bor	4,891	4,891
Lakes	Rumbek	91	91
Upper Nile	Malakal	21,568	21,500
	Melut	1,249	1,300
Unity	Pariang	70	8
	Bentiu	5,462	6,234
TOTAL		76,655	67,390

Source: UNMISS Update, 19 March 2014

FUNDING

2014 EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOUTH SUDAN SITUATION

	Situation (Regional)	Ethiopia	Kenya	South Sudan	Sudan	Uganda	TOTAL
Canada	895,255						895,255
CERF			1,782,533	754,320		2,033,625	4,570,478
Denmark	1,000,000						1,000,000
France	287,278						287,278
Japan			2,116,973	6,800,000		130,512	9,047,485
Switzerland				275,634			275,634
TOTAL	2,182,533		3,899,506	7,829,954		2,164,167	16,076,130

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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FOR INFORMATION ON THE SOUTH SUDAN SITUATION, PLEASE VISIT

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