



# UNHCR South Sudan

## *Situation Report*

### Developments

#### • Upper Nile state

The general security situation remained very tense throughout the day with no incidents reported. An UNMISS patrol in the town reported that few local shops were open, and civilian movements limited.

Regarding the boat accident reported yesterday on Nile River during an attempt to flee Malakal, there are unconfirmed reports that 127 bodies - mostly children - have been recovered from the accident scene is between Malakal and Lelo.

#### • Central Equatoria

NGO staff traveling from to Gorom refugee settlement near Juba to carry out health work and administer state primary school examinations were intercepted 4km from the refugee camp by armed uniformed soldiers. Their vehicle had UNHCR registration plates and the NGO's logo. The soldiers took away mobile telephones, cash and other valuables, and then released the staff. The matter was reported to the authorities.

In the evening sporadic fighting took place near Gorom refugee camp, allegedly between rival elements of SPLA, which has created nervousness among the refugee population which hitherto remained largely unaffected by hostilities.

#### • Unity state

Ten UNHCR staff are due to return to Yida on 15 January to strengthen UNHCR's presence in Unity State, which will include coverage of IDP response activities in Bentiu. Four staff from the South Sudan Commission for Refugee Affairs will also resume work in Unity State.

### Refugee operations

UNHCR and logistics partner AAHI are packaging medicines for dispatch refugee Unity and Upper Nile state to replenishment supplies.

Various individual cases concerning refugees and asylum seekers in UNMISS Protection of Civilians (PoC) Areas, including irregular movers from other countries and "stranded" refugees from various parts

of the country continue to be identified and followed up on. UNMISS and partners are aware that for purposes of access and assistance in PoC areas, refugees and asylum seekers are treated equally with other civilians.

#### • Upper Nile State

UNHCR met today refugee leaders in the four Maban camps to express concerns about massive forced recruitments by SPLA-N that have were observed last week. Refugee leaders undertook to discuss the matter with SPLA-N commanders; they have limited influence on the military.

In Kaya camp, refugee leaders informed UNHCR of renewed bombardment by SAF in Blue Nile, which may result in new arrivals in camps. UNHCR is monitoring the situation.

### Internal displacement

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

#### • Population movements

The Malakal population is extremely scared. There was continued movement of civilians and the town remained deserted. Many civilians made their way into UNMISS POC area, where the number of IDPs stands at between 18,000 to 20,000. Registration is on-going by IOM. It was reported that many more civilians are moving to other parts of the Upper Nile State in Malakal, Lelo and Melut.

In Central Equatoria State, UNHCR received reports from government counterparts that a reported IDP population of some 7,000 persons in Geri have returned to their home areas.

On 10 January, UNHCR conducted a mission to Agok and surrounding areas, and met with local and displaced communities in the village of Rumkor and surrounding areas. The host community is absorbing the displaced (est. 500 households) in their homesteads; many have direct family or communal links. There is currently no encampment. Their main concerns are for food and shelter. If more arrive, the situation could change quickly. The displaced indicated that some family members

returned to Abiemnom to check on properties and to collect food stocks that were left behind. Some indicated there are between 5-6000 could be on the way. This could not be substantiated. GOAL and MSF are providing health services. IDPs said there may be more people from Abiemnom and Mayom moving to Twich County, although some may be afraid to approach Twich lest they face reprisals.

- **Non-food items**

Two additional airlifts of relief items (family tents and rubbhalls) from Nairobi to Juba are expected to take place on 14 Jan. All NFI stocks for IDPs are at the disposal of the NFI/Emergency Shelter cluster.

UNHCR distributed 320 blankets and 320 mosquito nets to IDPs at St. Teresa’s Church in Juba.

UNHCR also released timber, plastic rolls and plastic sheets to camp management NGO, ACTED, to build shaded areas for new arrivals and humanitarian workers UNMISS PoC Areas in Juba.

- **Protection Cluster**

Protection Cluster actors continue to provide services in UNMISS PoC Areas, including regular engagement with UNMISS. Protection structures in PoC Areas in Juba are already defined, with focal points for “general protection”, Child protection and SGBV.

Focus group discussions held by Protection Cluster actors in UNMISS PoC Area at UN House suggest some confusion with respect to different clusters establishing different engagement structures, which will have to be addressed at the inter-cluster level in Juba.

### **Emergency non-food items**

	NON-FOOD ITEMS	ORDERED	RECEIVED		DISTRIBUTED	
			This day	Total	This day	Total
<b>AIRLIFTED FROM NAIROBI</b>	Plastic rolls	200	-	200	-	-
	Plastic sheets	20,000	-	10,076	-	-
	Blankets	12,500	-	12,480	320	-
	Kitchen sets	12,500	-	3,898	-	-
	Family tents	30	-	-	-	-
	Rubbhalls	10	-	4	-	-
<b>REFUGEE STOCKS</b>	Mosquito nets				320	320

The Protection Cluster established a regular presence in Bentui UNMISS PoC Area and Awerial, via partner Non-Violent Peace Force with other partners likewise scaling up.

Relocation of “new arrivals” from UNMISS Topping to UN House commenced on 13 January, albeit with only one transport instead of the planned 2 transports owing to challenges in mobilizing force protection/escort.

- **Upper Nile State**

#### **Malakal**

Protection monitoring by UNHCR in the UNMISS PoC area is on-going. Plans are underway to identify community protection monitors to work with community leaders and help identify and report protection incidents. As of 13 January, monitoring will be coupled with identification of persons with special needs, who will be assisted with NFIs. In this regard, UNHCR plans to join the humanitarian convoy that will be going to town on 13 January to collect the NFIs and store them in UNMISS log base for distribution once the beneficiaries are identified.

There are concerns that fighting that may erupt in Malakal, could provoke a massive exodus of IDPs to Maban, which is a calm area in Upper Nile state. Given the limited resources of the area, such an influx could increase tensions.

#### **Maban County**

RRC, UNHCR, WFP, IOM, Oxfam and Solidarites an assessment of the needs of IDPs in Beneshawa (45km south of Bunj). UNHCR registered/profiled 848 IDPs (254 households) with WFP and IOM. 93% are women and children. Some refugees

expressed uncertainty about their safety. Relations with the host community are good, except for isolated cases of fighting at three functional water points. IDPs indicated they have no intentions of returning to the home area yet for fear of fighting. Their main needs are food, access to sufficient quantities of safe water and non food items/shelter.

Responses to the needs of the IDPs in Nurashine and Beneshawa are being coordinated with the RRC.

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