



UNHCR South Sudan

Situation Report

Developments

• Upper Nile state

In Malakal the security situation remained tense and unpredictable. Conflicting declarations were made by government and anti-government representatives, with each camp claiming to have full control of the town.

A security assessment team observed many dead bodies on the streets, as well as armed youth (estimated to be around 7000) chanting in a celebratory mood. An SPLA commander who had defected provided assurances to the security team that his troops would ensure the safety of civilians and UN personnel. He indicated it would not be safe for aircraft to fly over the next two days.

There was heavy looting of UN warehouses. The extent of the looting of UNHCR warehouse is yet to be ascertained. It was confirmed that the two UNHCR boats were stolen along with those of many other UN and NGOs that were parked at the WFP warehouse. The entire WFP warehouse next to the river bank was also looted.

UN staff have been cautioned that armed youth could be excitable. Moreover there is concern that the Logbase in Malakal is likely to be in the line of fire of fighting forces due to its proximity to the airport and key roads leading out of town.

UNHCR South Sudan Situation portal

<http://data.unhcr.org/SouthSudan/regional.php>

UNHCR has revised and updated the South Sudan Situation portal. The focus, as with all UNHCR portals, is on **Refugees**. It provides a platform for sharing operational data and information with all partners, and to provide partners with a place to share their information and operational data. The portal now covers South Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya and Sudan in regard to refugees in South Sudan or from South Sudan. It will not contain information related to IDPS in South Sudan.

Reinforcement of warring parties is expected in the coming days to maintain or regain control of various locations. It is assessed that the prevailing calm is a lull before another violent episode.

In light of the above, reduced presence to critical staff in Upper Nile State remains relevant until the situation is less confused. UN partners are monitoring the situation in Malakal closely amid concerns about the probable deterioration of the situation in Malakal area; the possible return of armed units to Adar-Gul Guk area, and likely spread of internal displacement to the Maban area.

Refugee operations

Meeting with heads of NGOs operating in refugee hosting areas, the UNHCR Representative reiterated the Humanitarian Coordinator's call for them to establish in IDP affected areas where he described the situation as desperate. He updated them on progress of resumed activities in refugee camps in Unity State, as well as the situation in Upper Nile State. NGOs requested access to UN security assessments and evacuation plans to help their inform decisions by their organizations on return, as well as clarity on joint evacuation modalities.

In response to a concerns that the IDP situation could overshadow needs of refugees, the Representative reassured NGOs that within UNHCR separate (additional) resources were being made available for the IDP response.

Central Equatoria State

UNHCR has received a preliminary indication of approval of the notion of Temporary Protection for persons from Eritrea. Accordingly, protection and registration colleagues will commence organizing a registration of Eritreans.

• Unity State

UNHCR staff confirm food distribution for all 6,961 refugee living in in Ajuong Thok has been completed.

Internal displacement

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

- **Protection Cluster**

The Protection Cluster continues to engage UNMISS with respect to safety and security inside UNMISS bases and is now regularly represented at a twice weekly UNMISS “PoC Area” security meeting. The Protection Cluster was represented at an UNMISS called meeting on addressing individual cases and have been informed of various UNMISS Focal Points for issues such as GBV and Child Protection.

- **Central Equatoria State**

In Gorom refugee settlement, ACROSS confirms that civilians displaced from surrounding villages are occupying some of the classrooms in the school. Others are at the health centre and a few are in the communal structure used as cooking areas for new arrivals. The IDPS cite movement of soldiers during the night in their villages with surround the refugee settlement. The soldiers are alleged to belong to either of the opposing sides. IDPs are reluctant to return home for fear fighting could break out at night. In total there are 672 IDPs (133 households). Their profile is: 123 aged 40-60 years; 242 aged 18-39 years; and 307 aged 0-17 years (ie. 50% children).

- **Jonglei State**

Representatives of the CCCM, NFI/Emergency Shelter, and Logistics Clusters conducted an assessment mission to the spontaneous IDP settlement in Awerial County, where the majority have settled in and around Mingkaman town, on the Nile River, approximately 20.5 km from Bor as the crow flies. An estimated 146,613 IDPs (source: RRC as of 14/01/2014) have settled in the town and riverside areas to both north and south.

The mission found families sheltering under trees, with their belongings piled against the base of the trunk and mats laid out in the shade, moving around with the sun. At night, they lie under nets which are hung from the branches. MSF reported that there are increased chest infections from the cold nights, and many young children are suffering from heat and dehydration.

The mission has made recommendations *inter alia* for site planning advice to decongest the area and ensure maximum dignity and safety; NFIs and shelter materials, including urgent shelter assistance for extremely vulnerable people, particularly women with new-borns.

Meanwhile, Bor the capital of Jonglei State remains under control of anti-government forces amid reports of continued fighting.

- **Lakes State**

In Yirol West UNHCR distributed 300 collapsible jerry cans, 300 sleeping mats and 100 blankets. The recipients were 250 IDP households (400 persons), including 17 individuals who were wounded and are in the hospital in Yirol Town.

The RRC Secretary for Yirol East indicated that RRC has verified 645 IDP households in Yirol West, and that there are new IDPs coming in every day. There are also 57 households in the former way station in Nyang, Yirol East. Meanwhile, UNHCR is yet to confirm reports of at least 400 households in the open in Malek, Yirol East.

- **Upper Nile State**

Malakal

Protection monitoring continued. There were unconfirmed reports that an unknown number of women and youth who had gone to the river were captured by anti-government forces. There was also reports of infringement on the freedom of movement among the civilians who wished to cross the river and flee from Malakal. These reports are being followed up to confirm veracity and motive. There are growing fears that owing to the massive looting of UN warehouses, there might soon be no food and other essential humanitarian items to sustain take care of the IDPs in Malakal.

Maban County

The presence of IDPs in Maban region is expected not to increase until military activity in Malakal subsides. It is anticipated that if anti-government troops return to Adar, a massive influx of IDPs into Maban could occur.

Urgent basic assistance was delivered to 1,600 IDPs in Nurashine (752 individuals) and Beneshowa (848 individuals). WFP provided food rations for 15 days with high energy biscuits. IOM and UNHCR provided blankets, sleeping mats, cooking sets, mosquito nets, jerry cans and plastic sheets. In both locations, distributions went on smoothly thanks to collaborative by UNHCR, WFP, IOM, ACTED and Samaritans Purse.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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FOR REFUGEE INFORMATION ON THE SOUTH SUDAN SITUATION, VISIT

<http://data.unhcr.org/SouthSudan/regional.php>

