



# UNHCR South Sudan

## *Situation Report*

### Developments

- UNHCR Representative, staff from Yida and several NGO partners were caught up in the fighting which culminated in pro-government troops retaking Bentiu. Among the 7,000 civilians who sought refuge in the UNMISS base were some 600 Sudanese refugees. Several UNHCR staff and their families were evacuated to the base.
- In due course the team travelled to Yida and Ajuong Thok, where they found refugees had not been directly affected by recent tensions, although fighting took place very close to both locations.
- Members of the reconnaissance team found the situation in Ajuong Thok was calm with refugees moving about normally. They visited the market and the AHA clinic, which is being run by 2 clinical officers, 8 nurses and 2 lab assistances. Medical referrals are sent to MSF in Yida, which in turn refers patients to Juba if needed. The nutrition programme continues despite gaps in some of the supplies .
- Equipment was looted from the UNHCR office in Pariang. The UNHCR compound in Jamjang (near Ajuong Thok) was intact. NFI and other assets were untouched, with the exception of one vehicle and eight barrels of fuel which are missing.
- Initially all staff will use the UNHCR compound in Yida as the operations base as it is the best secured location. Staff covering Ajuong Thok will move to Pariang after the office has been rehabilitated pending completion of works in Jamjang.



### Refugee operations

#### • Unity State

UNHCR staff resumed critical activities in Yida, including registration of an estimated 650 refugees who arrived in Yida from the Nuba Mountains during the last three weeks. 200 were registered in the ProGress database on 10 January.

Staff are preparing to carry out food distribution on 15 January in both Yida and Ajuong Thok.

Plans are under way to evacuate some 600 Sudanese refugees from UNMISS base in Bentiu.

It is expected that all staff will return to their duty stations in Unity soon.

#### • Central Equatoria State:

There is a concern about access to refugees in Morobo County on South Sudan's border with DRC, for whom registration has been delayed owing to the outbreak of hostilities. Reports indicate that some may have crossed the border back into DRC. UNHCR will field a mission to assess if/as the security/access situation permits.

Owing to road closure and security constraints, there is a challenge in getting food supplies to refugees in Yei. UNHCR is in ongoing discussions with WFP on how to safely address the issue.

### Internal displacement

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

#### • Population movements

OCHA reports 352,110 IDPs throughout the country including 60,432 seeking physical protection in PoC (Protection of Civilian) Areas.

Reports from Nimule, Torit and Awerial suggest that IDPs are being informed that borders are closed and people should remain in South Sudan.

Conversely reports from UNHCR in Kenya and Uganda indicate that borders are in fact open.

UNHCR and Protection Cluster actors should regularly advocate for respect for Art 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights enshrining the right to seek and enjoy asylum in another country.

- **Protection cluster**

Good progress been made in increasing UNMISS protective presence in areas immediately outside UNMISS PoC Areas in Juba. Regular patrols began on 10 January as UNMISS capacity is increasing and in light strong and regular Protection Cluster advocacy. Many protection concerns arising in areas immediately in from of PoC Areas have regularly been raised with UNMISS PoC.

At the request of the HCT Protection Cluster and CCCM actors will conduct “security and intention” surveys next week both within and outside of UNMISS bases in Juba to ascertain perceptions of risks within UNMISS PoC areas for persons/groups of certain profiles in connection with on-going discussions with UNMISS on how to address the specific PoC needs of all the differing groups within bases.

The CCCM Cluster, Protection Cluster and UNMISS PoC concluded discussions on protection sensitive entry/exit procedures for UNMISS PoC Areas in Juba, seeking to preserve freedom of movement while addressing capacity issues at the gates.

A weapons search at the UNMISS PoC Area at UN House uncovered some knives and pangas but no arms.

Discussions between CCCM and Protection Cluster Information Management Focal points on access to and use of registration data agreed mechanisms for sharing information related to persons with specific needs.

- **Central Equatoria (Yei)**

UNHCR partner for the refugee programme in Yei County, ACROSS, deployed health outreach workers to provide emergency health interventions

**Emergency non-food items stockpile**

NON-FOOD ITEMS	ORDERED	RECEIVED		DISTRIBUTED	
		This day	Total	This day	Total
Plastic rolls	200	-	200	-	-
Plastic sheets	20,000	3,830	10,076	-	-
Blankets	12,500	740	12,480	-	-
Kitchen sets	12,500	-	3,898	-	-
Family tents	30	-	-	-	-
Rubbhalls	10	4	4	-	-

at the IDP centre, using medical kits (drugs and other accessories) originally intended for urban refugees.

- **Unity state**

UNHCR is releasing NFI’s from it’s Yida stocks to support the IDP response in Bentiu. Plans are under way to airlift items for 5,000 people.

UNHCR and partners are yet to verify reports by local authorities that there are 46,000 IDPs in Jamjang (near Ajuong Thok) and 10,000 in Yida. Authorities say they have taken refuge among local communities.

- **Upper Nile State**

**Malakal**

57,999 IDPs (11,599 households) are registered in Southern zone Malakal. Agencies will contribute food (WFP) and non-food items (IOM/UNHCR/ Medair), identified as priority needs, under the auspices of the NFI/ Emergency Shelter cluster.

**Maban County**

Following reports received from the County Commissioner/RRC regarding presence of IDPs in Jinmakda Payam, an inter-agency assessment was undertaken today by RRC, UNHCR, WFP, IOM and Oxfam Nurashine village (46km southwest Jamam).

Over 1,000 individuals (women, children and men from Nuer/Maban tribes), were observed sheltering under trees. Their leaders submitted to the team a list of 1,373 individuals (234 households). It is subject to verification.

The IDPs were reported to have come from four Bomas (Banpoko, Banchenyo, Kila-towa (Maban County within Adar area) and Ban-Moapiny (Longichuk County within Gulguk area).

They cited indiscriminate attacks and looting by both White Army and SPLA as reasons for their flight, expressed reluctance to return saying the security situation had deteriorated in their home area.

Priority needs are related to food, clean drinking water, medication and shelter. Majority of children were reported to be suffering from diarrhea supposedly from eating wild fruit and drinking dirty water. A multi-sectoral response will follow.

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