

SOUTH SUDAN

PROTECTION MONITORING REPORT

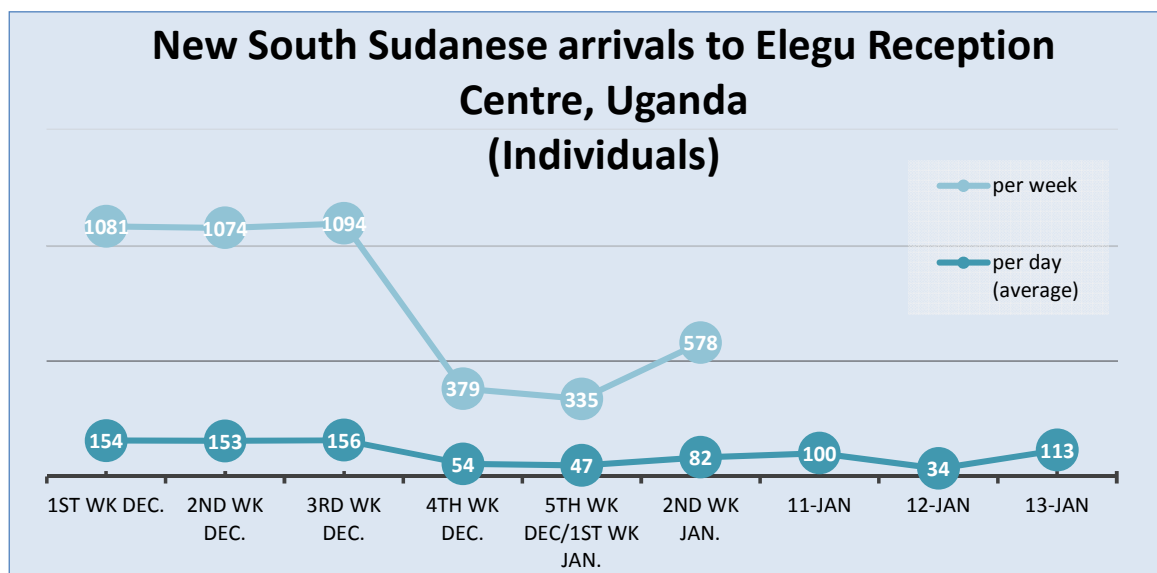
CROSS-BORDER MOVEMENT SOUTH SUDAN TO UGANDA, REPORT 4 14 JANUARY 2015

OVERVIEW

This report updates UNHCR South Sudan’s Protection Monitoring Report n.3 of 31 December 2014.

Three merging events were noted during this reporting period:

- At the end of December and early January ‘15, a decrease in the number of South Sudanese crossing over to Uganda and registered in Elegu Reception Centre was observed. However, this changed again by the second week of January. A slight increase in the number of ethnic Madi individuals from Pageri Administration (Nimule, Opari, Loa, Arapi and Mugali) has been witnessed.
- The security situation in Nimule is generally stable with an enforced and enhanced military presence. Reportedly fears and perception over this increased law enforcement presence gave rise to some of the outflows and deserted some neighborhoods which disrupted the community security structure. These remained as the main causes for South Sudanese of Madi ethnicity to flee to Uganda during the reporting period. In one of the instances, on the 6th January, fighting occurred between Dinka and Madi families over personal matters where some Madi individuals were attacked by Dinka youth. The incident did not trigger a large cross-border movement, but some Madi new arrivals interviewed at Elegu Reception Centre in Uganda on the following day cited it as their main reason for fleeing to Uganda.
- Another notable incident happened on the 11th January. Over twenty youth near Loa were arrested very early in the morning and were all released after investigation. After this date, the number of ethnic Madi crossing to Uganda is seen to be in higher trend.



KEY FINDINGS

- The outflow of South Sudanese from Pageri Administration to Uganda through the Nimule border has slightly increased in the second week of January. According to UNHCR Uganda, Madi individuals who directly arrived in Adjumani in December and returned to Elegu reception center for registration is one of the main contributing factor of the increase in number. However, a remarkably higher trend in the third week of January 2015 after the episode of the arrest of over 20 youth on 11 January near Loa area has been noted. The majority of Madi registered in January came from Loa, Arapi and Nimule.
- Madi ethnic individuals arrived in Elegu Reception Centre on 13 January reported that they feared the situation on the South Sudan side and that hence they opted to crossover and to “wait and see”. Once community members and particularly the youth started to be arrested, a sense of fear and insecurity erupted and consequently some Madi decided to immediately flee to Uganda. According to key informant interview contacted, people left over agricultural products in their fields, ready for harvesting, signifying the seriousness of their concerns on the security situation.
- The outflow of ethnic Dinka individuals also continued in crossing over to Uganda but with lower trend. Most of new arrival fled from Upper Nile, Unity and Jonglei States due to insecurity caused by the armed conflicts in those areas. In particular, people from Jonglei said they fled from fighting in Duk, Pigi Counties. Some new arrivals also claimed scarcity of food in their areas as another reason to flee, highlighting impossibility to undertake farming activities under an insecure and very vulnerable situation.
- UNHCR Uganda’s partners observed that women and children made up the majority of South Sudanese crossing into Uganda. However as for January so far, the female to male ratio of the population is 50:50, possibly due to large numbers of boys and male adolescents registered. Over 80% of Madi women arrived at the Elegu reception center were without their husbands. Some families of Dinka sent children along with their relatives to Uganda as it’s the practice, as well as reportedly because of their inability to pay for the transportation of the whole family (e.g. flight from Malakal to Juba: 700 SSP per person). Other Dinka families reported instead that all their family members arrived in Juba by a free of charge flight provided by governmental authorities. Some cases of separated and/or unaccompanied children arriving on their own have also been reported and are being followed up by UNHCR in Uganda. According to the overall statistics of January 2015 at time of writing, children make over 63% of the total population of new arrivals.

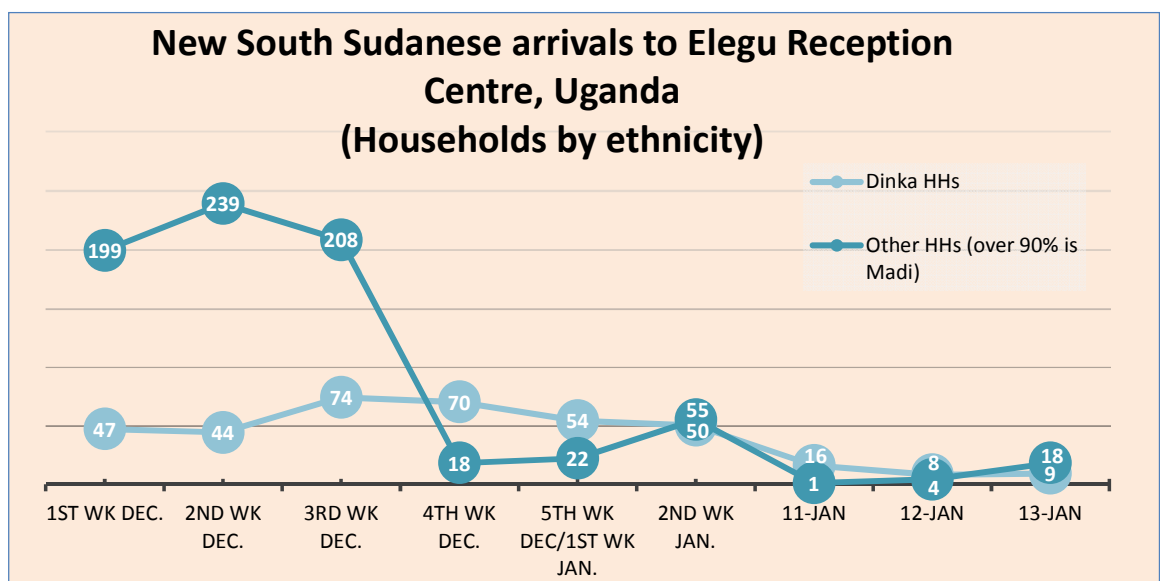




Photo © UNHCR Nimule: Loading house-belongings to UNHCR truck at Elegu Reception Centre.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Unchanged from 31 December 2014 Protection Monitoring Report:

- **UNHCR protection staff on both sides of the border will pay particular attention in interviewing and in the analysis of newly identified outflow of non-Madi South Sudanese particularly Dinka from outside the immediate border area. The reported return of some Madi South Sudanese to their areas of origin as well as the security situation in Nimule will be closely monitored.**
- **All South Sudanese, regardless of tribe or ethnicity, should enjoy the right to freedom of movement and the right to seek asylum.** UNHCR will continue to monitor and report confirmed instances in which people are prevented from crossing the border by force, intimidation or arbitrary arrest.
- UNHCR supports the State and Area authorities in their efforts to address the concerns of the communities in Nimule and Pageri by providing **open and transparent descriptions of the current security situation**. With the **trend of new arrivals expected to continue** at least temporarily, the newly arrived women, children and elderly, will require additional humanitarian support and assistance upon arrival at Elegu and at the Adjumani Settlement. UNHCR and humanitarian partners in Uganda are making the necessary preparations should an emergency response be necessary.

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