SOUTH SUDAN EMERGENCY SITUATION

UNHCR EXTERNAL REGIONAL UPDATE, 3

8 - 13 February 2014

HIGHLIGHTS

- Given the scale and complexity of the situation in South Sudan, the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator activated the level 3 humanitarian system wide level emergency response to ensure an effective response to the humanitarian needs of the affected people.
- Number of refugees crossing into Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda increased to nearly 156,000, who have left their country since 15 December 2013.
- More than 739,500 people remained internally displaced, including some 75,000 in 8 UN Protection of Civilian sites.



Young refugee boy arriving at Dzaipi Transit centre, Uganda. UNHCR F.Noy

- UNHCR issued an advisory against returns to South Sudan, recommending that States suspend forcible returns of nationals or residents of South Sudan to the country, as the situation remains fluid and uncertain.
- While the rate of new arrivals slowed down in Kenya, more than 3,000 South Sudanese were registered in Uganda and the number of arrivals also spiked in Ethiopia.
- In Sudan, lack of access to monitor distribution forced UNHCR to suspend the distribution of much needed relief items.
- In Uganda, more than 30,000 South Sudanese refugees have been relocated from the reception and transit centres to the settlements. In total, 48,000 South Sudanese refugees have been given plots in the settlements since the beginning of the crisis.

155,583

South Sudanese refugees

739,500

(Including 75,000 in UN Protection of Civilians sites)

IDPs since 15 Dec. 2013

231,648

Refugees in South Sudan

POPULATIONS OF CONCERN

SOUTH SUDAN

Refugees from		
Central African Republic	1,632	
Ethiopia	5,890	
DRC	13,970	
Sudan	210,156	
Total refugees	231,648	
IDPs	739,500	

SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEES (NEWLY ARRIVED SINCE 15 DECEMBER UNTIL 13 FEBRUARY)

Total	155,583	
Uganda	70,555	
Sudan	26,200 ¹	
Kenya	16,462	
Ethiopia	42,366	
C+hionia	42.266	

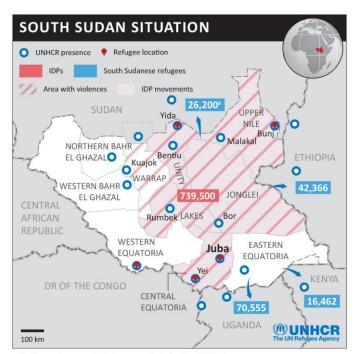
For more information please visit: http://data.unhcr.org/SouthSudan/regional.php

¹ This figure does not include new arrivals in Abyei PCA Box.

South Sudan

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

- On 12 February, talks between the Government and the opposition started in Addis Ababa under the auspices of the Intergovernment Authority of Development (IGAD). The UN expressed its concern about ongoing fighting and skirmishes in Unity and Upper Nile States and called upon all parties to respect life-saving activities and freedom of movement of humanitarian actors.
- The security situation Upper Nile State remained tense and unpredictable, with reports of anti-government forces moving to Malakal. People have started to leave the town and the distribution of relief items has stopped due to security concerns.
- In Maban County, the situation remained relatively stable. While risks associated with armed conflict were considered to be low, crime-related incidents were on the increase, with reported theft of food from WFP warehouses in Doro, Gendrassa and Batil camps, and a break in at a compound of an international NGO.



^aThis figure does not include new arrivals in Abyei PCA Box.

Map Sources: UNCS, UNHCR, OCHA.

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined. Creation date: 13 Feb 2014.

IDPs

Since 15 December, 739,500 people were newly displaced by the violence, bringing the total number of IDPs in South Sudan to more than 888,000.

OVERALL HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION

• In the inter-agency relief effort, under the overall coordination of the Humanitarian Coordinator, UNHCR leads the Protection Cluster, co-leads with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster and provides support to the Shelter/Non-Food Items (NFI) Cluster.

PROTECTION, CCCM and SHELTER/NFIs

- In Upper Nile State, rumours of impending attacks prompted people to leave Malakal for Melut and there has been an increase in the number of people entering the UNMISS Protection of Civilians site. UNHCR and other humanitarian actors conducted an assessment in Rom and Palouch, following up on reports that there were some 34,000 IDPs. A rapid assessment concluded that there were some 3,000 people in Rom and even less in Palouch. Trucks were seen bringing mainly women and children, reportedly from Baliet and Pigi Counties. With the exception of Melut and Rom, all the other locations outside the Protection of Civilians area appeared to be used as transit points, as IDPs do not settle there. Protection and assistance interventions outside the Protection of Civilians area will focus on Rom and Melut, and UNHCR will monitor the transit points.
- Protection assessments detected a high number of female headed households, elderly, disabled people and unaccompanied/separated children. The Protection Cluster planned to conduct comprehensive vulnerability assessment, register people with specific needs and support them as

- required through specialized organizations, including family tracing and referral for psychosocial support. UNHCR will recruit and train monitors to monitor the protection situation.
- In Unity State, UNHCR-led an inter-agency mission to assess the situation of some 20,000 IDPs in Pariang County. IDPs reported fleeing attacks in which family members were killed as fighters looted property and burned houses. Many hid in the bush for days, surviving on leaves and wild fruits. Assessed priorities include: food, healthcare, water, shelter, blankets, mosquito nets, farm implements and latrines. Africa Humanitarian Action, a medical NGO in Ajuong Thok, has been providing some healthcare services in Panyayiir and Gumriak and UNHCR distributed high energy biscuits.

REFUGEES

There are more than 231,000 refugees in South Sudan, mostly Sudanese who fled violence in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States to Upper Nile and Unity States in South Sudan.

NUTRITION

In Upper Nile State, serious concerns have emerged about the nutrition status of the Sudanese refugees in the Maban camps following an increase in refugee children showing signs of kwashiorkor, a manifestation of severe protein deficiency. Similar trends were noted during the "hunger gap" last year, a period when there was a shortage of food (animal protein sources, fruit and vegetables) to complement the general food distribution. In the current cases, preliminary enquiries indicate that affected children are toddlers whose nutrition needs have been compromised as their mothers are either pregnant or lactating younger siblings. Therefore, Community Nutrition health workers are increasing active screening to detect cases early. Health, WASH and Nutrition partners are reinforcing their actions with the aim of improving conditions at the household level to prevent malnutrition.

WASH

At the community level, trained mother-to-mother support groups—comprising women whose children are not malnourished or who have recovered—are being mobilized to tackle malnutrition and improve feeding practices. In addition, house-to-house visits will be conducted in all four camps with a focus on food and WASH. In all four camps, water pumping hours have been increased to reach 20 litres per person per day, while decommissioning and replacement of latrines is on-going. In response to growing morbidity and an increase in people suffering from diarrhoea, health and WASH partners have increased the distribution of oral rehydration salts in the camps, particularly in Doro and Yusuf Batil. In Yusuf Batil, upgrading of the water system continued. The household latrine initiative progressed with; 421 completed and in use. Hygiene promoters visited more than 900 families, encouraging them to improve practices including the regular cleaning of jerry cans and water containers.

Ethiopia

South Sudanese asylum seekers continued to arrive in the Gambella region mainly through Akobo Tergol and Pagak border entry points. The total number of registered new arrivals in Gambella is now 42,366 people. On 10 February alone, over 3,500 new arrivals were registered in Pagak, the main entry point. Nearly 95 % of the new arrivals were women and children. Given the sharp increase in the pace of arrivals, UNHCR and its partners have revised it planning figures upwards, from 60,000 to 150,000 expected arrivals from South Sudan.

FOOD AND NUTRITION

WFP is providing the registered refugees with high energy biscuits. UNHCR and partners remain concerned that the nutrition situation of people arriving from South Sudan is deteriorating. A rapid assessment in Pagak, screening 100 children younger than 5 years old, indicated a GAM rate of 31% and a SAM rate of 6%.

HEALTH

The Gambella regional Health Bureau, supported by UNICEF, started providing emergency health services in Pagak. A measles and polio vaccination campaign combined with Vitamin A supplements started in Leitchuor and in Pagak. In Akobo, vaccination, nutrition screening and the distribution of mosquito nets distribution has begun; however, more vaccinations are required for the growing

number of new arrivals. UNHCR has provided a tent for use as an emergency clinic and reproductive health kits are now also available.

WASH

Due to the large increase in the number f refugees, the supply of water became alarmingly insufficient
with the current availability of 5 litres per person per day. UNHCR is redeploying water tankers from
its operations in Assossa (Sudanese refugees) and Dolo Ado (Somali refugees) to remedy the situation

SHELTER

- Construction of 4 out of a planned 10 temporary communal shelters was completed in Leitchuor, increasing the camp's reception facilities. New arrivals in Leitchuor receive wooden poles and plastic sheets to construct emergency shelters, while transitional shelters are being constructed with support from the Norwegian Refugee Council.
- Maintenance of the road between Matar and Burbiey has been completed and the relocation to Akobo can now start.

Kenya

Since 15 December 2013, 16,462 South Sudanese refugees have crossed into Kenya through Nadapal border point. Refugees are transferred to Kakuma camp, which currently hosts 145,800 refugees, mostly from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan.

RECEPTION, REGISTRATION AND ASSISTANCE OF NEW ARRIVALS FROM SOUTH SUDAN

 Following initial registration at the border, refugees undergo biometric registration in Kakuma, together with other news arrivals. Nearly 300 arrivals turned out to be former Kakuma residents, refugees who had lived in Kakuma before returning to their home country.

PROTECTION

- A high number of unaccompanied children continued to arrive. Since mid-December, more than 2,300 unaccompanied minors and separated children have been registered, bringing the total of unaccompanied /separated children in Kakuma to 12,850. Following a best interest assessment carried out at the reception centre the majority of the unaccompanied minor appeared to have relatives in Kakuma. The children are taken care of by relatives or foster arrangements are being sought. Additional child protection staff have been recruited to monitor the situation of these children.
- Negotiations with local authorities on establishing a new camp at Nakururum continued, as the four camps in Kakuma have almost reached their maximum capacity. While the elders have proposed an alternative to the site initially assessed by UNHCR and its partners, the host community remained reluctant to designate land for a new refugee camp.

EDUCATION

Thus far, 2,020 students have been registered at the temporary primary school, but only 717 are attending classes due to limited capacity, including a lack of teachers. WFP will commence a school feeding programme once a kitchen has been constructed.

HEALTH

• The outbreak of measles appeared to be under control, with no deaths reported due to the illness this week. A mass polio/ measles vaccination campaign started on 12 February, with the aim to immunize some 50,000 children up to 15 years old.

WASH

Twelve water tanks are providing the population of Kakuma 4 with an average of 10 litres of water per person per day. Additional tanks have been ordered to improve the situation. Currently, a total of 558 communal latrines have been constructed at the new site. This places the latrine to user ratio at

1:29 individuals. There are also 2 latrines at the food distribution centre and 12 at the temporary school

Sudan

Some 26,200 people have arrived in Sudan from South Sudan since the violence started in mid-December, at an average rate of 200 to 300 arrivals per day.

PROTECTION

- UNHCR and partners continued to seek clarification on the status of the South Sudanese, encouraging
 the government to accord them refugee protection in line with the international instruments it has
 ratified.
- On 11 February, the Sudanese Minister of Foreign Affairs announced in a press statement to Parliament that based on affirmation of the entry into force of the Four Freedoms Agreement, those fleeing South Sudan would be treated liked Sudanese citizens. According to the Government this is the reason why the arrivals have not been given refugee status. It is expected that the Four Freedoms agreement might be discussed as an annex to the peace talks in Addis Ababa, which started on 12 February.
- The protection situation in the sites in White Nile State is deteriorating with large number of extremely vulnerable individuals, including unaccompanied children, not receiving adequate assistance and follow-up. The separation of combatants from the refugee population remained a concern.
- UNHCR teams monitored the open sites in Khartoum, and discussion with some families identified by community leaders as new arrivals suggest that many were smuggled to Khartoum, paying large sums of money. It was also understood that some of the women and girls had been exposed to harassment and GBV incidents during the journey.

FOOD AND NON-FOOD ITEMS

- As of 10 February, WFP had distributed food to 9,624 individuals in White Nile State.
- Access to the affected populations has deteriorated, with a UNHCR team that was supposed to monitor the distribution of relief items in one of the relocation sites in White Nile State being denied access. Two staff who were on the ground in the relocation sites received instructions from the Humanitarian Aid Commission to leave, as there was no need for UNHCR to monitor distributions. While the planned distribution of relief items went ahead, benefitting some 1,600 families, all further distributions have been put on hold. UNHCR is seeking clarification from the Government and instructions on distribution monitoring before activities can resume.
- Until this suspension of distribution, 13,200 South Sudanese had received UNHCR relief items, distributed by the Sudanese Red Crescent society in White Nile and West Kordofan

SHELTER

• In Kilo 10 and Al Alagaya, White Nile State, 5-7 families are currently sharing one tent, with women and children sleeping in the tent, while male family members have fashioned covers from plastic sheeting and are sleeping in the open. Additional emergency shelter components are currently being procured.

COORDINATION

UNHCR is currently working with partners through the Refugee Multi Sector coordination mechanism
to discuss and draw together all partners' requirements by sector to be included in the upcoming
regional inter-agency appeal for the South Sudan Emergency.

Uganda

Since 15 December, 70,555 asylum-seekers have arrived from South Sudan, exceeding the initial planning figures of 60,000. UNHCR and partners have increased planning figures to 100,000 arrivals until the end of the year.

RECEPTION AND ASSISTANCE OF NEW ARRIVALS FROM SOUTH SUDAN

Nearly 3,000 South Sudanese arrived during the week, with many presenting themselves directly at Kiyrandongo refugee settlement UNHCR maintains a daily presence at Elegu, on the South Sudanese / Ugandan border, where a collection centre has been established. From here refugees are relocated to Nyumanzi reception centre. In Koboko District refugees are received through Keri collection centre and transferred to Ocea reception centre in Rhino Camp settlement. Authorities routinely monitor the border for the arrival of refugees and inform UNHCR of new arrivals. Sporadic incidents between arriving refugee and the local communities have been reported, but these have been managed timely by the Ugandan police. The police remained present at the Elegu collection centre.

PROTECTION

- Protection monitoring and community services continued in the refugee settlements. People with specific needs, including female-headed households are currently being accommodated in communal shelters until they can be assisted with setting up their own shelter.
- To ensure adequate foster care arrangements for children who arrived without next of kin and monitoring in the settlements, UNHCR and Save the Children met with refugee communities to select child protection committee members, caregivers and facilitators. Two committee members per cluster will be identified with caregivers and facilitators selected where early childhoods development facilities are constructed.
- UNHCR continued to work with refugees in settlements and reception centres to raise awareness on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). A rapid assessment on SGBV was carried out in Adjumani District, but many refugee women were reluctant to discuss this subject out of fear that their husbands would stop providing for them.
- The mass sensitization team continued its public awareness activities in various clusters, stressing the importance of setting up community leadership structures and showing up for the biometric registration. There is an urgent need to set up formal leadership structures in the settlements to better address the problems raised by the communities. The election process falls under the responsibility of the Office of the Prime Minister, the government counterpart. Currently, all partners work through informal leaders and volunteers. Protection messages regarding non-discrimination, respect for the rule of law, prevention and response to SGBV, child protection and support to people with specific needs are transmitted to refugee communities through daily community meetings.

HEALTH

- The mass vaccination campaign against measles was successfully completed by the District Health Office and the various partners on the ground.
- Health centres have requested additional 100 kits for women who deliver there to ensure newborns are vaccinated, receive adequate health care and birth certificates. Not all mothers have their children vaccinated, which is a potential health risk. Some women are still giving birth at home and there is an urgent need to inform communities about available antenatal care services. UNHCR is working with community leaders to stress the importance of for pregnant women to visit health centres for antenatal care

WASH

- The supply of water has been increased in the centres and the settlements through the drilling of new and rehabilitation of boreholes, as well as water trucks. The availability of water has increased from an average of some 10 litres per person per day last week to an average of some 13 litres per person a day in the transit and reception centres and an average of 17 litres per person a day in the settlements.
- The sanitation situation is gradually improving through hygiene campaigns, ongoing relocation to the settlement and the construction of additional latrine and shower block. Nonetheless, the number of people per latrine and shower is still too high.

FUNDING UPDATE (IN USD)

Below are UNHCR's financial needs for providing protection and assistance to South Sudanese refugees in the neighbouring countries, as well as discharging its responsibilities in the inter-agency framework to provide humanitarian assistance to IDPs in South Sudan. Total requirements amount to USD 88 million.

	South Sudan	Ethiopia	Kenya	Sudan	Uganda	Total
Financial requirements total:	49,416,836	5,278,310	5,288,029	941,600	27,059,435	87,984,210
Funding received/confirmed:						
CERF	754,320					754,320
Funding gap:	48,662,516	5,278,310	5,288,029	941,600	27,059,435	87,229,890