

SUDAN OPERATIONS

SUDAN/CHAD SITUATION UPDATE 30

15 September 2005



Sudanese refugees in Bredjing camp, eastern Chad. UNHCR/H. Caux

SOUTH SUDAN



Demining near Yei. UNHCR/K. McKinsey

Security

The security situation in south Sudan remained relatively stable. For the first time, Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) elements crossed the White Nile river and attacked an area on the Yei-Juba road. Attacks by the LRA have been taking place fairly regularly around Juba in the last few months, but always to the east of the White Nile. In August, the LRA took control of several villages in the south-east, harvesting and feeding on crops grown by locals, most of whom fled.

New Government arrangements

A large convoy of trucks carrying government employees left Juba for Yei and Yambio to re-establish offices in Yei Province and Western Equatoria State. Under the current arrangement, all government entities belonging to other states and administrative units are to vacate Juba for their respective areas. Likewise, tribal chiefs who were displaced and operated in Juba have been ordered by the Administrative Supervisor of Bahr el Jabel State to stop exercising their judicial powers in Juba in the hope that they will return to their communities.

Tracking and monitoring post in Kabu

On 9 September, a joint UNHCR/OCHA/Adventist Development and Relief Association (ADRA) team conducted a mission to assess progress on the population tracking and monitoring post set up in Kabu, 12 miles west on the Juba-Rokon road. The OCHA enumerators have been working for almost three weeks on the post. The project seems to be progressing smoothly, but some improvement is needed with regard to production of timely reports and making the exercise more protection-oriented.

Population movements as reported from Malakal

During the inter-agency mission led by UNHCR to Mabaan and to Maiwut on 10 and 12 September respectively, SPLM/Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SRRC) authorities reported 30,799 returnees to Mabaan County since late 2004 and 56,118 returnees to Maiwut County since January 2005. The breakdown of returnees in Maiwut County is as follows:

Payam	Returning IDPs	Returning refugees (from Ethiopia)	Total
Maiwut	3,743	5,742	9,485
Jotome	4,201	7,810	12,011
Ulung	5,901	1,990	7,891
Pagak	4,231	6,391 (unclear)	11,640
Turu	2,190	2,190 (unclear)	6,391
Kigile	2,921	4,779	7,700

Returnees from Mabaan passed via Kurmuk whereas those in Maiwut used the Pagak-Mabaan route. The road on both sides of the border is reported to be safe.

In Paloich, where the Chinese/Malaysian/Sudanese oil company Petrodar is based, 681 families (number of persons not available) have reportedly returned from the North since John Garang's death. A daily bus from Kosti to Melut via Paloich transports the IDPs. From Melut, returning IDPs take small boats to Malakal and the surrounding area. As the company is planning to provide the villagers (most of whom work as daily labourers) with water, medical, educational and, possibly, housing assistance, Paloich is expected to grow with the arrival of returning IDPs, including those who are not originally from there.

Returnees from Khartoum

On 6 August, a group of 85 returnees arrived from Khartoum to Juba by barge. They approached ADRA for food and other assistance. In a meeting with UNHCR, the returnees mentioned peace as the main reason for their return, but also difficult living conditions for southern Sudanese in Khartoum. Two women also mentioned that they were forcefully evicted from their houses following the violent incidents after John Garang's death. They claimed that many residents in Mayo and Kalakla areas in Khartoum are facing similar problems and plan to depart for the south soon. Most of the returnees expressed willingness to proceed immediately to their villages of origin in the areas of Kajo Keji, Yei, Maridi and Yambio. WFP has been asked to provide them with food assistance while in transit to their places of origin.

Food distribution in Kajo Keji

WFP reported at a meeting with humanitarian agencies working in Kajo Keji that it will conduct food distribution for 56,000 returnees, IDPs and 75 percent of the Kajo Keji community from October to December 2005. The decision is based on the findings of an assessment mission, which indicated poor harvests during two consecutive seasons and the probability that the current harvest will be equally poor.

Preparing for return in Malakal

UNHCR is waiting for clarification from IOM, which does not yet have presence in Upper Nile, on its plans to construct way stations in Kodok, Melut and Tonga. MSF-Holland has agreed to implement medical screening, vaccination and, possibly, HIV/AIDS sensitization at the planned way station in Nasir. GOAL confirmed that it will provide basic medical services and HIV/AIDS awareness, including distribution of condoms at Malakal way station. UNHCR has also approached GOAL for health interventions at the future health centre and way station in Melut. Melut is an important transit point - many IDPs arrive by bus and truck and take boats to the south.

Planning for return in Yei

UNHCR met with GTZ (German Technical Cooperation) and local authorities to begin planning for the primary way station in Sanja Asiri, six km from Yei town, and made a joint visit to the site on 10 September to

assess conditions. The team found that while several buildings on the site can be used, others need to be constructed if the way station is to have the capacity for up to 7,000 returnees. UNHCR has requested official written authorization for the use of Sanja Asiri. Meanwhile, UNHCR, GTZ and SRRC will begin to sensitize the local community about the benefits of the improved site to their community.

ShelterBox, a UK-based NGO, has donated 640 shelter kits to UNHCR Yei. Each shelter kit contains a tent, sleeping bags and other items (enough for a family of 10). UNHCR Yei will coordinate with other offices in south Sudan to determine the best use for the donation.

IDP survey project

On 9 September, the steering committee of the IDP survey project met at OCHA Rumbek to further discuss survey locations and commitments of participating agencies (UNFPA and NRC have committed financial support to the survey). In a meeting with the SRRC Commissioner on 14 September it was agreed to focus heavily on Equatoria. UNHCR offices and NGOs have been contacted to provide further input in the identification of IDP concentration areas and possible logistical support. In consultation with IOM, it was agreed to target the second week of October to train surveyors.

Progress on Community-Based Reintegration Projects

Juba

- On 7 September, UNICEF and Swedish Free Mission (SFM) jointly identified and assessed water points along the Juba-Yei road, (until mile 40) on 7 September. At present, there are seven functioning bore wells on the Juba-Yei road. Most of them are located at military check points and local people and returnees have access to them. The mission identified two additional potential locations to install bore wells that could serve for on route water supply for returnees.

Yei

- Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) completed a two-week in-service teachers training workshop for 89 teachers from 52 schools in Yei, Morobo and Lainya Counties. Some of the teachers, including a woman, walked for two days, while another woman with four month-old twins, walked 16 miles to attend the workshop. At the end of the workshop, the teachers received textbooks and other educational material for their schools.
- ACROSS completed a three-day school management workshop for 17 parent-teachers association members from eight schools in Yei town.
- Agricultural tools and seeds were distributed to vulnerable returnees and local households in Lainya County. A total of 1,000 households, 35 percent of which were female-headed households, benefited from the distribution.
- The Yei County Commissioner's office is nearing completion. The building is expected to be finished by the end of September.
- A team from UNHCR's regional office in Nairobi is currently in Yei to assess ongoing peace education activities. Findings from this mission will guide the development of a future peace education programme in Equatoria.
- 300 impregnated mosquito nets have been distributed to breastfeeding mothers and pregnant women who attended outreach sessions and immunization at health facilities.

Kajo Keji

- JRS concluded the in-service teachers' training for both primary and secondary school teachers on 10 September.
- UNHCR visited Kinyiba Girls Primary School, which is run by the community. The school was opened in 1997 and was operating under a grass thatched roofs until 2003 when CRS supported the construction of eight classrooms, an office block, a dining hall and a dormitory with the capacity for 100 pupils. The structures are finished and currently there are a total of 301 pupils. The boarding programme has not yet started. UNHCR is studying how to support this community initiative as per

the needs identified: borehole, additional beds, mattresses, mosquito nets and stationery. The school is run by 11 teachers, of whom only two are trained.

Congolese refugees in Juba

During the reporting period, five Congolese refugees charged with looting and theft during the period of unrest following the death of John Garang appeared in court. Three of them were acquitted and two paid a fine of 10,000 Sudanese Dinars (about 40 US Dollars) each. The remaining 13 refugees are scheduled to appear in court next week. UNHCR attends the court proceedings as observer.

Sudanese refugees in Egypt

In Egypt, there are currently 14,499 recognized Sudanese refugees and another 10,000 asylum-seekers. Sudanese continue to approach UNHCR Cairo, but in smaller numbers than earlier in the year. Applications by Sudanese have steadily decreased since the beginning of 2005. A total of 229 Sudanese registered with the office in August - a substantial drop when compared to 462 applications in January, although slightly up since last month. The majority of new applicants arrived in Egypt this or last year. In August, 12 cases repatriated to Sudan, including three families. Only two cases indicated they would be traveling to the south. UNHCR Cairo continues to hold regular meetings with small groups from the Sudanese refugee and asylum-seeker community. The majority continue to be uninterested in repatriation although some indicate they would return at a later date if a number of conditions were met. These included homes, jobs and financial support.

Update on funding situation for South Sudan as at 30 August

Requirements (includes countries of asylum): US\$ 76,347,770

2005 Contributions: US\$ 33,061,869

CHAD

Security

For the most part, the security situation in and around Abeche in eastern Chad remained calm. The French military advised that its helicopter night flights around the camps will resume in approximately two weeks. The flights are part of the French army's camp access and border monitoring efforts, both focused on concerns about the possibility of infiltration by combatants. Following the High Commissioner's visit and meetings with high-level Government authorities, UNHCR is moving forward with improvements to refugee camp security, including proposed revisions to the Memorandum of Understanding with the Government.

Repatriation of Chadians from West Darfur

CNAR (the national refugee authority) has indicated it will send a mission to meet with the 5,000 Chadians in West Darfur in preparation for signing a long stalled Tripartite Agreement (Government of Sudan, Government of Chad and UNHCR) for their return.

Consolidated Appeal for 2006

OCHA hosted a workshop in Abeche to prepare the Consolidated Appeal (an inter-agency appeal for funds) for 2006. During the workshop, the major challenges and successes of 2005 and principal themes and objectives for 2006 were discussed. UNHCR objectives for 2006 include continuing care and maintenance, strengthening income generating activities, protecting refugees outside camps, reducing environmental impact, fostering amicable relations between refugees and local populations and facilitating the return of as many as 30,000 refugees to Sudan (together with perhaps 10,000 refugees outside camps who might opt to return spontaneously). UNHCR will not require refugees to return and will only assist where return can take place in safety and dignity.

Registration exercise

The registration exercise in Treguine camp has been completed, with 13,270 refugees registered. The figures will need to be adjusted for individuals absent during the exercise, but are not expected to change significantly. Phase two of the registration exercise has now begun in Bredjing camp, which will take approximately one week to complete.

Teacher training

A three-week training of trainers has begun in Abeche. Twenty-four teachers representing all 12 camps are being trained on various teaching methodologies and will cover, among other topics, the environment, gender, human rights and psychosocial support. The training will be followed by a field visit to schools to assess how the skills acquired will be used.

Psychosocial activities

HIAS, the most recent partner to arrive in Chad specializing in psychosocial interventions, has completed its initial needs assessment in Bredjing and Treguine camps. During a three-day workshop, refugees were trained on how to identify psychosocial needs in the community. The participants were taught to identify the meaning and types of trauma, child abuse, violence against women and other forms of mistreatment. HIAS identified a lack of services for mentally disabled individuals and very limited coping strategies on the part of refugees. HIAS will help refugees to better identify those in need of mental health assistance and to improve the assistance available, particularly for women and children.

Formation of theatrical group

A group of 39 refugee youths (32 boys and 7 girls) from camps in Guereda have formed a theatrical group. The group has chosen to perform skits on themes such as female genital mutilation, forced/early marriage, domestic violence and child abuse. Other educational themes will include the promotion of girl child

education. The initiative is a strong indicator of awareness of universal human rights by at least a proportion of the refugee population.

Gore, southern Chad

UNHCR has reinforced its staffing in Gore to assist the new arrivals as well as the repatriation of over 1,500 Chadians from northern CAR scheduled to commence on 20 September 2005.

A joint mission by CNAR, the Chadian Red Cross and UNHCR traveled to Bedounia village, 15 km from Gore, to meet with administrative authorities, chiefs of the villages hosting refugees and refugees themselves. The Bekam authorities confirmed the presence of 2,043 refugees from CAR spread out over 12 villages. All of them, UNHCR was told, had fled the canton of Bedan in the Papoua region of northern CAR. Relocation of the refugees remains difficult as Bekam is literally cut off by the rains. The only possible route in is by way of pirogue or canoe. At present, only one such boat is available, with capacity limited to 10 persons.

Authorities at Bedounia village have agreed to continue hosting the refugees while screening and registration activities take place. The refugees will then be relocated to Amboko refugee settlement, near Gore. Despite the generosity of the receiving population, the number of refugees being hosted creates concerns about the adequacy of sanitary conditions in the villages. Following the Government's authorization to identify an additional settlement in the south, UNHCR has recommended that the new site be established at Bedamara. The new site will be able to accommodate the roughly 8,500 refugees who have arrived and have been relocated to Amboko settlement since June 2005 as well as new arrivals. Bedamara is approximately 20 km from Gore, where UNHCR has its field office, and about 10 km from the existing settlement at Amboko.



Extension facility at Amboko refugee settlement. UNHCR/D. Mbaiolem

Damanadji, southern Chad

A meeting was held on 9 September to establish the new, joint refugee and local population committee. The objective is to increase communication and understanding between the two groups and the national authorities. UNHCR views the constitution of such groups as fundamental to local integration, as refugee structures are progressively incorporated into and increasingly owned by the local population.

Update on funding situation for Chad as at 30 August

Requirements: US\$ 81,225,813

2005 Contributions: US\$ 46,795,260