South Sudan Crisis — Regional Impact

Highlights

- Despite the signing of the peace agreement and attempts by the international and regional bodies to support the implementation of the peace agreement in South Sudan, refugees continue to cross the borders into neighbouring countries.

- WFP requires USD 63 million for the next six months to meet the needs of all refugees in Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda.

- Food stocks are stretched and WFP requires immediate contributions to meet the needs of new arrivals and existing refugees, in particular Kenya and Sudan. In Kenya, WFP continues to implement 30 percent ration cuts, which started in the second round of June distributions.

- The first cash-based transfers for refugees in Kakuma, Kenya started in late-August. The cash replaces 10 percent of the cereals’ ration, allowing refugees to purchase food of their choice from approved traders.

Overview

A high level meeting on South Sudan took place on 29 September in New York, on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly, with South Sudan President Salva Kiir in attendance via video teleconference and South Sudan Vice President Wanni Igga and SPLM/A-IO leader Riek Machar present at the meeting. The meeting was centred on galvanizing support for the implementation of the peace process in South Sudan.

Despite the signing of the peace agreement, security conditions in South Sudan remain volatile and sporadic fighting has been reported in various parts of the country. In the past two weeks, increased tension in Upper Nile and Eastern Equatoria States has resulted in an influx of South Sudanese refugees fleeing into neighbouring countries, in particular Uganda. As at 25 September, more than 629,000 people, mainly women and children had fled South Sudan into Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda since fighting started in mid-December 2013. Within South Sudan, about 200,000 people are seeking shelter in Protection of Civilians (POC) sites at UN bases across the country.

Insecurity in some parts of the country continues to cause population displacements and restrict humanitarian access. This coupled with deteriorating economic conditions and reduced food production has led to increased staple food and fuel prices, further limiting access to food. A new Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) analysis is expected in October.
Regional Update

**Ethiopia.** Nearly 220,000 South Sudanese refugees have fled to Ethiopia since mid-December 2013. Relocation of refugees from Matar, Burbiey and Pagak border entry points to Pugnido 2 camp, which started on 25 August, was completed on 11 September. More than 15,000 refugees were moved to the new camp.

WFP is providing general food rations to new arrivals at the border entry points, reception centers and those settled in the camps. In addition, nutrition activities targeting children 6-59 months, pregnant and breastfeeding women are ongoing to treat those malnourished and prevent further deterioration of malnutrition levels.

The “most likely” scenario in the Regional Refugee Response Plan projects that 340,000 refugees will have arrived by the end of 2015.

**Kenya.** Since fighting started in South Sudan in mid-December 2013, about 45,000 South Sudanese refugees have arrived in Kenya.

WFP has maintained the 30 percent ration cuts for refugees introduced in mid-June because of severe funding shortfalls. Unless new contributions are received soon, WFP will continue implementing ration cuts at the same level until the end of the year.

WFP introduced cash-based transfers for refugees in Kakuma in late August. The cash will replace 10 percent of the cereals’ ration and will allow refugees to purchase food of their choice from approved traders. The cash-based transfers will expand to Dadaab camps in November. WFP continues to provide specialized nutritional products for treatment and prevention of moderate acute malnutrition for children below 5 years, pregnant and breastfeeding women.

The “most likely” scenario in the Regional Refugee Response Plan projects that 75,000 refugees will have arrived by the end of 2015.

**Sudan.** The number of new arrivals since mid-December 2013 when fighting started in South Sudan has reached 192,000. So far, WFP has provided food assistance to more than 118,000 refugees in White Nile, West Kordofan, North Kordofan and South Kordofan States.

WFP continues to provide critical food assistance to newly arrived refugees at the reception centres and to those settled in the camps. In addition, nutrition activities are ongoing to treat and prevent moderate acute malnutrition among children aged 6-59 months, pregnant and breastfeeding women.

Overcrowding remains a concern in camps hosting refugees. A new site has been identified for the development of a new camp at Al Jabalain in White Nile State. The proposed site will accommodate approximately 4,500 people.

The influx of South Sudanese refugees has over stretched humanitarian capacity as the expected total number of 196,000 refugees according to the South Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan has nearly been reached. As a result, the “most likely scenario” has been revised upwards from 196,000 to 232,142 new refugees.

**Uganda.** Nearly 167,000 South Sudanese refugees have fled to Uganda since mid-December 2013. The number of South Sudanese refugees arriving in the country is still significant though stable compared to the last weeks of August. In Adjumani, the period (01-14 September) saw more than 1,400 South Sudanese refugees seeking safety and protection in Uganda, with an average daily arrival rate of 101 people per day. New arrivals report harassment as the main reasons for fleeing South Sudan.

WFP continues to provide hot meals at transit and reception centres and monthly family rations to those who have resettled. Blanket supplementary feeding is implemented along-side targeted supplementary feeding for malnourished children under five years and all pregnant and lactating women at health centres.

The “most likely” scenario in the Regional Refugee Response Plan projects that 210,000 refugees will have arrived by the end of 2015.

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