South Sudan Crisis—Regional Impact
Situation Report #63 03 September 2015

Highlights

- The signing of the peace agreement is a positive development. However, many significant concerns remain to be addressed and the Addis Ababa workshop starting on 04 September will be critical.
- Resourcing remains a serious concern with food stocks low in Kenya and Sudan. In Kenya, WFP continues to implement 30 percent ration cuts, which started in the second round of June distributions.
- As per the inter agency regional refugee response plan, WFP provides hot meals at reception centers and monthly family rations to those who have resettled in the camps. High energy biscuits are provided at the border points for immediate relief. In addition, nutrition activities are ongoing to rehabilitate those malnourished and prevent further deterioration of malnutrition levels.

Overview

On 26 August, South Sudan President Salva Kiir signed the peace agreement, after IGAD gave the government 15 additional days for consultations with its constituents. Earlier, on 17 August in Addis Ababa, opposition leader Riek Machar and SPLM Secretary General Pagan Amum signed the peace agreement mediated by IGAD-Plus on behalf of SPLM-IO and South Sudan Former Detainees respectively. The signing of the peace agreement by both parties is a crucial step towards the end of the conflict, which started in mid-December 2013.

Despite the signing of the peace agreement, security conditions in South Sudan remain volatile and clashes have 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 increased numbers of South Sudanese fleeing into neighbouring countries, in particular Uganda and Ethiopia. As at 01 September, more than 622,000 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, the number of people seeking shelter in Protection of Civilians (POC) sites at UN bases has increased significantly over the last three months. So far, 200,000 people are sheltering in six sites across the country.

According to FEWSNET, acute food insecurity peaked in June and July during the lean season. The combination of conflict and deteriorating economic conditions has led to increased staple food and fuel prices, further limiting access to food. The new Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) analysis is expected later in September.
Ethiopia. Since mid-December 2013 when fighting started in South Sudan, more than 223,000 South Sudanese refugees have crossed the border into Ethiopia. The majority of these refugees are from Upper Nile and Jonglei States. New arrivals report continued fighting as the reason for fleeing South Sudan.

WFP assists newly arrived refugees at border crossings, transit and reception centres and those settled in the camps, with a particular focus on the nutritional status of children, pregnant and breastfeeding women. WFP is implementing targeted supplementary feeding for moderately malnourished children aged 6-59 months, pregnant and breastfeeding women. In addition, blanket supplementary feeding is implemented alongside targeted supplementary feeding to prevent acute malnutrition among children below 5 years.

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. The transit center at Nadapal has been re-opened after it was temporarily closed in July following security incidents near the border.

WFP continues to provide hot meals at the reception centres and monthly food rations to those settled in the camps. In addition, WFP is providing nutritional products for the treatment and prevention of acute malnutrition among children below 5 years, pregnant and breastfeeding women.

Due to resource shortfalls, general food distribution rations have been reduced for all refugees by 30 percent from the second round of June distributions. Unless new contributions are received soon, WFP will continue implementing ration cuts at the same level until the end of the year.

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

Sudan. Refugees from South Sudan continue to arrive and more than 191,000 have crossed the border since mid-December 2013. So far, WFP has provided food assistance to more than 118,000 refugees in White Nile, West Kordofan, North Kordofan and South Kordofan States. In addition to food assistance provided to new arrivals at the reception centres and at the camps, WFP continues to provide specialized nutritional products for the treatment and prevention of moderate acute malnutrition among children aged 6-59 months, pregnant and breastfeeding women.

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 figures for the remainder of the year are under revision.

The “most likely” scenario in the Regional Refugee Response Plan projects that 196,000 refugees will have arrived by the end of 2015.

Uganda. More than 161,000 South Sudanese refugees have fled to Uganda since mid-December 2013. The number of South Sudanese crossing into the country has increased significantly in the past two weeks. This is as a result of renewed fighting and increased tension concerning armed conflict in Eastern Equatoria State. Between 24—25 August, more than 1,400 new arrivals crossed into Uganda through Elegu and Oraba border crossings and other un-gazetted entry points in Koboko District.

WFP continues to provide high energy biscuits and hot meals at transit centres and monthly rations to those settled in the camps. As part of its efforts in addressing malnutrition, WFP is providing nutritional products for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition among children below 5 years, pregnant and breastfeeding women and blanket supplementary feeding programme to prevent acute malnutrition for children aged 6-23 months.

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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