MoU facilitating aid to South Sudan through Sudan extended for one year, until July 2018

On 17 July 2017, the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan signed a one year extension of the memorandum of understanding (MoU)—from July 2017 to June 2018—allowing for the movement of humanitarian assistance from Sudan to South Sudan. The extension comes at a critical time as humanitarian needs in South Sudan continue to increase, particularly during the lean season (February – July) when millions of people are considered to be severely food insecure. Food insecurity is expected to further deteriorate given the ongoing conflict in the country.

Since the opening of the humanitarian corridor in July 2014, the agreement has been extended six times and a total of 85,700 metric tons (MT) of food assistance has been delivered to South Sudan. In 2017 alone, the World Food Programme (WFP) delivered 21,162 MT of food to some 200,000 conflict-affected and food insecure people in South Sudan’s Upper Nile State, using the longstanding Kosti corridor.

In March 2017, the Government of Sudan opened an additional corridor allowing the movement of humanitarian supplies to Unity State. Since then, WFP has delivered 10,109 MT of emergency food assistance to Bentiu to support the critical needs of an estimated 185,000 people in the state. Most recently, the Government of Sudan opened the Meriam and Abyei road routes to allow for the timely delivery of humanitarian assistance to the Greater Northern Bahr El Ghazal area.

Under the extended agreement, WFP plans to deliver between 90,000 and 100,000 MT of food assistance over the next year to vulnerable communities in food insecure areas, depending on resource availability. As a vital supply route, the Sudan-South Sudan corridor will continue to allow WFP to deliver humanitarian assistance faster due to a shorter distance to the delivery point and enhance cost-efficiency.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Aid organisations plan to send an additional 90,000 tons of aid to South Sudan through Sudan.
- Fighting between farmers and pastoralists temporarily displaced 1,300 people to Kalma IDP camp, South Darfur.
- Thousands of students in the Jebel Marra area receive education assistance.
- European Union (EU) contributes €3.1 million ($US 3.53 million) to UNHCR for South Sudanese refugee response.
- Over 410,000 South Sudanese refugees have arrived in Sudan since mid-December 2013.

FIGURES 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># people in need in Sudan</td>
<td>4.8 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>(2017 HNO)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># people in need in Darfur</td>
<td>3 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>(2017 HNO)</td>
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<tr>
<td>GAM caseload</td>
<td>2.2 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2017 HNO)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Sudanese refugees</td>
<td>410,354</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Since 15 Dec 2013 (registered by UNHCR) - as of 30 July 2017</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other refugees and asylum seekers</td>
<td>167,784</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(registered by UNHCR) - as of 30 June 2017</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FUNDING

- 156.4 million US$ received in 2017
- 19.5% Reported funding (FTS, as of 31 July 2017)
Fighting between farmers and pastoralists temporarily displaces 1,300 people in South Darfur

From 24 to 25 July the International Organization for Migration (IOM) verified that about 1,300 people had been temporarily displaced from their homes in Hegair Tono (Bileil locality) to Kalma internally displaced persons (IDP) camp following fighting between farmers and pastoralists on 22 July.

In response, HAC and local authorities carried out a fact-finding mission on 30 July in Hegair Tono to assess the current situation. According to the mission findings, police forces have been deployed to the area, improving overall security, while the native administration has managed to defuse the tension between the two communities. Local authorities are now encouraging the IDPs to return to their homes. In Kalma IDP camp, humanitarian actors will provide emergency household supplies and hygiene services to the newly displaced people.

Thousands of students in the Jebel Marra area receive education assistance

As access to the Jebel Marra area improves, aid organisations with the support of State Ministries and local authorities, are working together to identify and respond to the needs of people in the area.

In West Jebel Marra locality, the State Ministry of Education (SMoE)—in collaboration with aid partners—have identified some 45 schools in need of urgent education assistance. This includes construction and rehabilitation of classrooms, as well as the provision of teaching learning and recreational supplies which will benefit an estimated 16,000 school-aged children. In response, the UN Children’s Agency (UNICEF) has provided education supplies to the international NGO Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and about 10,000 students in the locality have already received school supplies. Also, UNICEF in partnership with the international NGO Danish Refugee Council (DRC) will rehabilitate 12 classrooms, construct 12 new classrooms, provide training on education-emergencies and psychosocial support to 120 teachers and 80 members of parent teachers associations (PTAs).

Similarly, in Central/North Jebel Marra locality aid organisations are also distributing education supplies to meet the immediate learning needs of 11,000 students, including 8,000 students in Rokoro and 3,000 students in Golo. Additional needs include, construction and rehabilitation of classrooms, provision of seating facilities, as well as gender sensitive water sanitation and hygiene facilities.

Despite the huge needs for education in emergencies—including limited learning environment, lack of school supplies and limited number of trained teachers—education assistance remains largely underfunded. According to the Financial Tracking Service...
In July, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) received €3.1 million ($US 3.53 million) from the European Union (EU) to assist new South Sudanese arrivals in the country.

Nearly 160,000 South Sudanese refugees have arrived in Sudan in the first half of 2017 alone, bringing the total number of South Sudanese refugees who arrived in the country since mid-December 410,000. This is in addition to a further estimated 350,000 South Sudanese who remained in the country following the secession of South Sudan in 2011.

This funding will go to address the refugees’ immediate needs, and put in place adequate services to improve the quality of the current response to South Sudanese needs in White Nile, East Darfur and South Darfur states. It will also be used to fund registration activities, support reception centres and will enable the provision of shelter and basic household items. EU humanitarian aid has previously supported UNHCR in the response and provided €4.4 million ($5.05 million) in 2016 towards UNHCR's efforts to respond to critical life-saving needs.

UNHCR and its partners have appealed for $221.7 million for the 2017 South Sudanese Refugee Response Plan for Sudan. As of 27 July, only 22 per cent of funds required have been received so far, according to UNHCR.

White Nile: new reception centre at Um Jalala entry point

White Nile State hosts the largest number of new South Sudanese refugee arrivals (about 40 per cent) in the country, with over 163,000 refugees registered as of 15 July, according to UNHCR's Population and Operational update 1 – 15 July 2017. New refugee arrivals continue to be reported as arriving at the El Megenis and Joda border reception centre at an average rate of 34 refugees per day.

In response to this continued influx, UNHCR—through the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS)—constructed a new reception centre at Um Jalala entry point. The reception includes communal shelters, administrative facilities and a health clinic. UNHCR and the Commission for Refugees (COR) have nearly completed the expansion of El Megenis reception centre, which will include four new communal shelters, fencing and staff accommodation to boost capacity in order to process and support new arrivals. El Megenis remains the main entry point for new arrivals in White Nile State.