

Return and Reintegration of Sudanese Refugees and IDPs to South Sudan and Protection of IDPs in Khartoum and Kassala States of Sudan



School children study English at school in Yei. *UNHCR/M. Pearson*

Supplementary Appeal March 2006



Introduction

This appeal aims to secure funding in 2006 for two supplementary programmes in the Sudan: a) the return and reintegration of Sudanese refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in South Sudan; and b) the protection of IDPs in Khartoum and the Kassala states of Sudan.

Return and reintegration of displaced persons in South Sudan

UNHCR's return and reintegration operation to South Sudan is, on the one hand, a regional programme covering Sudanese refugees in seven countries of asylum: Central African Republic (CAR), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda. On the other hand, UNHCR's activities in Sudan are part of the UN Operations Plan 2005-2006. In October 2005, 358,197 refugees were verified and registered in the countries of asylum. In 2006, a total of 140,000 refugees are expected to return. UNHCR aims to repatriate 58,600 refugees by organized movements by the end of the first dry season (May 2006). As per the request of the Humanitarian Coordinator in May 2005, UNHCR will also play a key coordinating role for the protection and return and reintegration of internally displaced persons arriving in Equatoria and the Blue Nile States. USD 63.2 million is required to carry out operational activities in South Sudan and the seven countries of asylum.

Protection of IDPs in Khartoum and the Kassala States

Of the 4 million southern Sudanese IDPs displaced as a result of 21 years of conflict, about 2 million are living in and around Khartoum in four official camps and in some 30 squatter settlements. Following discussions with the Humanitarian Coordinator in late 2005, UNHCR was requested to play an active role in the implementation of protection activities for IDPs in the areas around the capital and in the Kassala States. UNHCR will collaborate with the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) under the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) collaborative approach to respond to IDP needs.

The overall aim is to establish a common protection framework which will guide the operational response of the United Nations, partners and the authorities in Sudan in order to provide protection services for IDPs along routes of return and in areas of return. To do so, this appeal is seeking USD 2.6 million.

Intervention strategy

In 2006, UNHCR adopted a three-pronged strategic approach for the voluntary repatriation of Sudanese refugees and return of IDPs to South Sudan:

Security permitting – facilitate voluntary repatriation

Security conditions are not ideal in the South, given the ethnic mosaic, historical tribal conflict and tenuous peace with the north. However, refugees are still determined to return. The Office will only repatriate refugees and assist returning IDPs where security allows. Changed circumstances following the conclusion of the CPA offer the best possible



Sudanese children in Rumbek. UNHCR

Introduction (continued)

opportunities for returnees to resume normal lives. This active facilitation of voluntary return will be pursued in the CAR, DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda. Targeted returns started in December 2005 with returns from Kenya.

Provide community-based reintegration assistance and stimulate livelihood activities for returnees

Reintegration assistance for returnees through support of basic community-based projects is imperative if solutions are to last. Without such projects, UNHCR cannot carry out returnee protection and monitoring. Without such support, returnees and receiving communities will most likely be unable to coexist, and there is a risk of renewed conflict and outflows. Minimum reintegration assistance in partnership with other agencies to anchor re-

turnees over an initial but sustained period is essential in promoting recovery and development projects in returnee areas.

Maintain protection and assistance in countries of asylum

The return of refugees and IDPs to South Sudan is expected to gain momentum over time and take a few years to complete. While every effort will be made to facilitate and promote voluntary repatriation, the continued provision of protection as well as humanitarian assistance in countries of asylum will be required, though at progressively reduced levels. The phase-down will be matched by an increase in livelihood activities for returnees until development aid is made available in South Sudan.



Refugee returnee family in Bor. UNHCR

Background and context of the operation

The civil war in Sudan has raged for 21 years, and taken nearly 2 million lives, leaving 4 million internally displaced and half a million refugees.

The signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) in January 2005 officially ended the civil war in the south of Sudan and raised hopes for social and economic recovery and reconstruction and security. Although the sudden death in July 2005 of Dr. John Garang sparked violent riots in some city areas, peace was restored with the appointment of Lt. General Salva Kiir as the next First Vice President of the Government of National Unity and President of South Sudan in August 2005. This has allowed for the resumption of preparations to form the Government of National Unity and has not hindered the progress made by humanitarian agencies in preparing for the return of refugees and IDPs.

Political developments

The Government of South Sudan (GoSS) is in the process of establishing itself in South Sudan. Juba is the new capital for the government in the South. The Government of National Unity (GNU) and the Government of South Sudan was constituted in September 2005 and an interim constitution of the GoSS was signed in December by the President of South Sudan. The Interim Legislative Assemblies of the South have approved a budget of USD 705 million to cover a nine-month period, beginning January 2006. USD 605 million of this budget will be raised from oil revenues, while another USD 55 million is expected from Donor Trust Funds. The establishment of the government as well as the eventual availability of revenues raise expectations that the GNU and the GoSS will play an increasing role in the development of the South - a pre-requisite for safe, dignified and sustainable return of all displaced persons.

Major challenges

The challenges for a large-scale post-conflict return and reintegration operation are tremendous. The capacity of local communities and

institutions to meet the anticipated massive return of displaced people is clearly insufficient. Development agencies are not present in many areas and basic social services are severely limited or non-existent in many areas of return. Many receiving communities and family members have been sharing their meagre resources with those who have spontaneously returned. Unless significant assistance can be provided to increase the community's absorption capacity, factors such as extremely limited food resources, and lack of income generation opportunities and land are likely to increase the risk of renewed outbreaks of conflict and violence.

Insecurity and the lack of infrastructure have slowed down the return of development agencies and community-based organizations. Those that are present have become UNHCR's partners in building the capacities of receiving communities. UNHCR's pro-



Sudanese refugees in Moyo queue to register for repatriation. UNHCR/E. Nziko

grammes therefore include a number of community-based projects in the sectors of water, health, education and creating livelihoods as well as promoting the rights of children, the elderly and gender equality.

Refugee returns

Recently concluded "intention to return surveys" in many refugee camps confirm that a large majority of Sudanese refugees in neighbouring countries are willing to return to their areas of origin. To prepare for refugee

Background and context of the operation (continued)

returns in 2005, UNHCR in collaboration with UNMIS, local authorities and partners, began to create conditions conducive for safe and dignified return especially in the Western Equatoria Region, an area of high refugee return.

IDP returns to South Sudan

Massive IDP returns are expected from both the north and the south along with the return of Sudanese refugees. The UN Country Team's (UNCT) Operation's Plan for Support to Spontaneous Returns in 2005/2006 estimates 682,000 IDP and refugee returns to South Sudan (60,000 organised and 482,000 spontaneous IDP returns, and 140,000 refugee returns). Although the 2004 Joint HAC/SRRC policy framework for return of displaced persons in a post-conflict Sudan reaffirms the right of all displaced persons in Sudan to return to their places of origin, the UNCT, at present, is not encouraging return given the unsuitable conditions in areas of origin. The UNCT, however, will facilitate organised returns to selected areas that meet the agreed criteria for security and availability of basic services.

Within the context of the framework for return, the Humanitarian Coordinator in May 2005, requested UNHCR to assume a key coordina-

tion role in designated areas by ensuring that return takes place in safety and dignity through protection monitoring activities along routes of return and in areas of return as well as by supporting the reintegration process of IDPs in Equatoria and Blue Nile States.

IDP Protection in Khartoum and Kassala States

There have been hardly any protection programmes provided for IDPs in Khartoum and recently even less as some of the NGOs which were providing assistance had to shift their attention to the crisis in Darfur and South Sudan. Severe restrictions by the Government to access camps (until recently), socio-economic marginalization of IDPs and persistent interference of security organs, including demolition of houses, forced relocation and arbitrary arrests of IDPs, has created a difficult environment and exposed IDPs to living conditions that fall short of international human rights standards. In this context, UNHCR will pursue protection activities designed to accompany and support their return to and reintegration in South Sudan.



Bor Dinka IDP returnees arrive in Bor and are received by IOM and UNHCR staff. UNHCR/H. Araki

2005 Achievements

UNHCR assumed a **key role in protection** and together with other agencies developed a comprehensive protection-based framework for both refugees and IDPs.

Following the signing of the CPA, **four Tripartite Agreements establishing the Legal Framework for Return to South Sudan** have been signed between Sudan, UNHCR and the Governments of CAR, DRC, Ethiopia and Kenya. Tripartite Agreements with Egypt and Uganda are due to be concluded in March 2006.

In countries of asylum, refugees were registered and verified for return. Vocational training was increased to prepare for return. Mass information campaigns were conducted, which included HIV/AIDS and mine risk awareness.

On physical safety, UNHCR in coordination with United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and through partner agencies conducted mine risk education activities in returnee areas and refugee camps, supported mapping of landmines and clearing of return routes (especially the Juba-Yei and Yei-Lasu routes) and areas in parts of Greater Equatoria where some 103,000 refugees have returned according to local authorities.

Seven emergency response teams were deployed to strategic locations in Juba, Yei, Tambura, Kajo-Keji, Bor, Malakal, Naser, Damazine and Kapoeta to conduct returnee protection monitoring and to implement CBRPs to increase absorption capacities of receiving communities. This resulted in the establishment of a UNHCR presence in key return areas and the opening of 12 offices in South Sudan..

Logistical capacity was increased. UNHCR and partners set up a logistical hub and warehousing facility in Yei. 36 cargo trucks, 4 tipper trucks and 100 light vehicles, telecommunication and office equipment were procured for Sudan and countries of asylum. Non-food items were also procured.

Priority return routes were surveyed and work on rehabilitation of the roads and mine clearance commenced. Work on way stations in Sudan and countries of asylum is in progress.

Community-based Rehabilitation Projects (CBRPs) were implemented in the context of the 4Rs (Repatriation, Reintegration, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction) benefiting over 100,000 spontaneous refugee returnees and as many IDPs.

Training on protection, including land and property restitution, was provided to community-based organisations, local authorities and youth and women's associations in South Sudan. Confidence building and reconciliation activities were implemented. Fifteen peace committees in Eastern Equatoria and Eastern Upper Nile were established through peace education initiatives.

Go-and-see visits were initiated from camps in Kenya and CAR to Tambura, Bor and Kapoeta in South Sudan. The **first organized repatriation** of 131 refugees from Kakuma, Kenya to Bor and Kapoeta, took place on 17 December 2005. Further return movements in 2006 from Kenya will commence in March.

Preparatory activities for voluntary returns from CAR were completed at the end of 2005 paving the way for the repatriation of 12,000 refugees in 2006.

2006 Objectives in South Sudan

During 2005, preparatory activities for the commencement of the voluntary repatriation operation in countries of asylum increased the optimism of the refugees knowing that finally they would be able to return home. Some 58,000 refugees are now preparing to return before the end of the first dry season (May 2006).

The key objectives for the year ahead are to:

Facilitate safe and dignified voluntary repatriation of Sudanese refugees from countries of asylum;

Address protection issues faced by returning populations through interventions with local authorities;

Under the coordination of the Return, Reintegration and Recovery Section of UNMIS, take key responsibility for assisting the return and reintegration of IDPs in Equatoria and Blue Nile States;

Promote durable solutions for returning refugees and IDPs through sustainable reintegration activities pursued through the implementation of CBRPs using the "4Rs" approach;

Reinforce protection capacity by promoting community-based protection networks and provide protection training and capacity-building support to local authorities and NGOs in pursuit of durable solutions;

Improve the protection situation of IDPs in and around Khartoum and the Kassala States by monitoring their physical protection needs and by intervening on their behalf with relevant authorities.



The first repatriation movement conducted by UNHCR brought refugees home from Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya on 17 December 2005. Photos by UNHCR/H. Caux

Operational Challenges

Security

Security remains one of the biggest challenges for humanitarian work in South Sudan. Security remains precarious in many areas because of inter-ethnic tensions and rivalries between various armed groups. The Lord's Resistance Army's (LRA) activity continues in Western and Central Equatoria and criminal activities such as cattle-rustling are also causing insecurity in many other areas. The local authorities, judiciary and police lack the necessary resources to enforce the law. The security situation in parts of Eastern and Western Equatoria delayed the planned repatriation, particularly from DRC to Yei in 2005. Despite these constraints, refugees are

capacity and resources to respond and to provide protection and assistance to returning populations and the receiving communities. There is indication that possible drought may hamper reintegration efforts in 2006.

Land allocation and livelihood opportunities

A critical concern for returnees is the access to land in areas of origin. Land could be a potential source of conflict if not properly addressed. UNHCR in collaboration with other agencies has begun to tackle land and property issues through the development of a comprehensive programme which includes training for paralegals.



Demining. UNHCR/H.Caux

still eager to return especially from CAR, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda. Mass information campaigns will be provided in these countries of asylum to enable refugees to make an informed decision.

Mines and Unexploded Ordnance

The presence of mines and unexploded ordnance in a number of locations creates an additional threat to humanitarian work; in addition, roads leading to areas of return need to be de-mined before repatriation can take place.

Lack of absorption capacity in return areas

The GoSS has severely limited institutional

Funding

In 2005, the supplementary programme for the voluntary repatriation of Sudanese refugees received USD 45 million in fresh contributions out of the total requirement of USD 76.3 million. Inadequate and regular shortfalls in funding levels affected UNHCR's capacity to complete a number of critical preparatory activities linked with the establishment of presence and operational activities to facilitate repatriation and provide initial assistance to returnees. In September, the operation had to borrow USD 5 million from the Central Emergency Relief Fund in order to prevent activities grinding to a halt as well as to maintain the momentum of the operation.

Population of Concern

Refugees

| Country of Asylum | Initial planning figures (registered & unassisted refugees) in Jan. 2004 | Number of registered refugees as of Dec. 2004 | Number of registered refugees as of Oct. 2005 | Number of spontaneous returns (registered refugees) as of Oct. 2005 ¹ | Expected number of organized returns up to end of 1st dry season (May 2006) |
|-------------------|--|---|---|--|---|
| CAR | 36,000 | 20,000 | 10,444 | 9,556 | 12,000 |
| DRC | 69,473 | 45,057 | 11,561 | 33,496 | 10,000 |
| Egypt* | 30,324 | 14,178 | 14,445 | 102 | 2,500 |
| Eritrea | 714 | 714 | 502 | 212 | 100 |
| Ethiopia | 90,533 | 90,451 | 79,745 | 10,706 | 14,000 |
| Kenya** | 65,000 | 63,197 | 73,210 | N/A | 10,000 |
| Uganda | 223,500 | 184,673 | 168,290 | 16,383 | 10,000 |
| TOTAL | 515,544 | 418,270 | 358,197 | 70,455 | 58,600 |

¹The difference between the number of registered refugees as of Dec. 2004 and the number of registered refugees as of Oct. 2005 is attributed to spontaneous return of registered refugees. This does not include Egypt* where many Sudanese refugees have been resettled to third countries. Furthermore, Kenya and Uganda**, received new arrivals after 2004.

NB: It is estimated that many unassisted refugees have also returned spontaneously, but figures are not available.

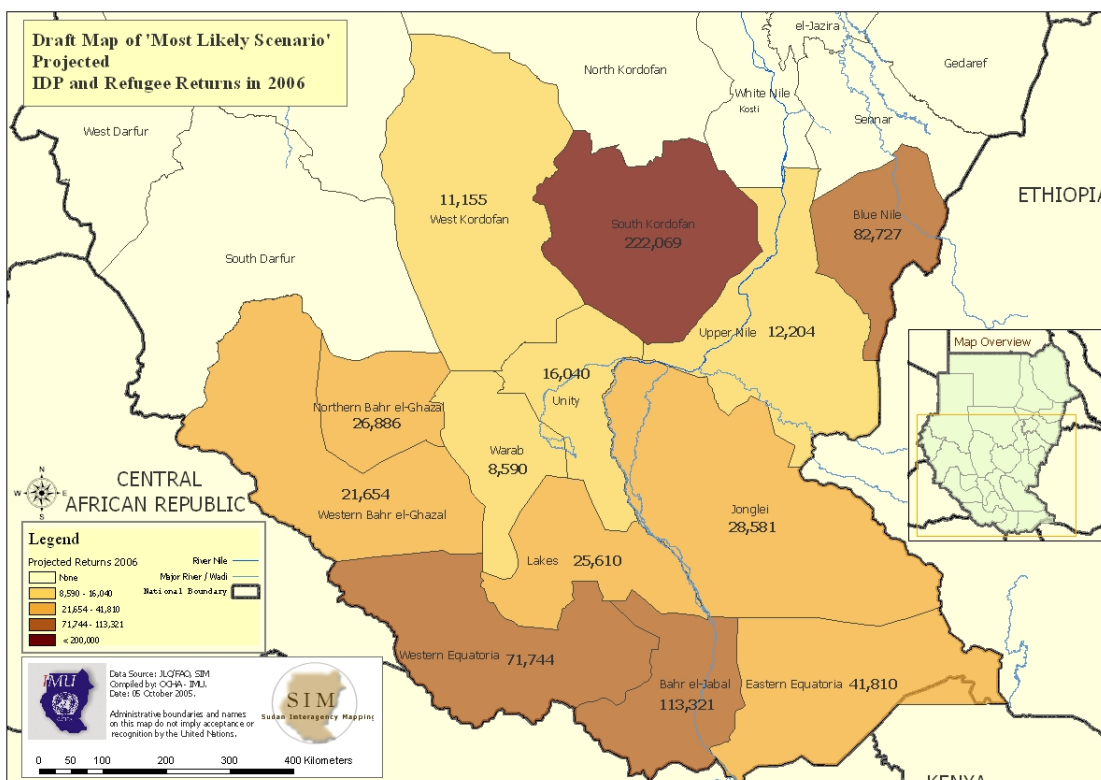
In November 2003, UNHCR prepared a contingency plan for the organized repatriation of 500,000 Sudanese refugees to South Sudan from camps in the East and Horn of Africa, the Great Lakes region and Egypt. It was expected that 110,000 would repatriate in 2004 following the conclusion of the CPA. Although the CPA was only signed a year later, spontaneous returns had already begun as the peace talks in Kenya progressed and increased the hopes of the refugees that return was actually possible. Consequently when UNHCR embarked on a verification exercise in the camps by end 2004 and early 2005, the results concluded a new refugee population figure of 358,197 confirming UNHCR's assumption that spontaneous returns were taking place. UNHCR plans to repatriate 58,600 by the end of May 2006.

Internally Displaced Persons

Following a request from the Government of Sudan (GoS), the June 2005 inter-agency survey on intentions of IDP return indicated that 33% of the IDP population will return to the south and 14% to East Sudan and the Blue Nile State. UNHCR has begun consultations with IDP communities from Equatoria on their return prospects to their home areas. The UN estimates 542,000 IDP returns to South Sudan in 2006, 60,000 of which will be organized returns.

Population of Concern (continued)

South Sudan IDP and Refugee Return Population Projections for 2006¹



2006 Planning Figures by OCHA's Information Management Unit (IMU)

| STATE | MOST LIKELY SCENARIO | PERCENTAGE |
|--|----------------------|-------------|
| Western Bahr el Ghazal | 21,654 | |
| Northern Bahr el Ghazal | 26,886 | |
| Warab | 8,590 | |
| Lakes | 25,610 | |
| Greater Bahr el Ghazal TOTAL | 82,740 | 12% |
| Unity | 16,040 | |
| Upper Nile | 12,204 | |
| Jonglei | 28,581 | |
| Greater Upper Nile TOTAL | 56,824 | 9% |
| Eastern Equatoria | 41,810 | |
| Bahr el Jebel | 113,321 | |
| Western Equatoria | 71,744 | |
| Greater Equatoria TOTAL | 226,875 | 33% |
| Southern Sudan TOTAL | 366,439 | |
| Blue Nile | 82,727 | |
| Southern Kordofan | 222,069 | |
| Western Kordofan | 11,155 | |
| Former Transitional Areas TOTAL | 315,951 | 46% |
| GRAND TOTAL | 682,391 | 100% |

¹ Source: UN Support for Spontaneous Returns, Operational Plan Version Two, 27 February 2006. A total of 682,000 people are expected to return. It is estimated that 140,000 will be organized refugee returns, 482,000 spontaneous IDP returns and 60,000 organized IDP returns.

Legal Framework for Returns

Refugees

The legal framework establishes the basic principles governing the repatriation operation such as the legal guarantees and practical modalities, and the obligations that will respectively be assumed by the countries of asylum, Sudan and UNHCR. UNHCR has begun to establish an appropriate legal framework with the Government of National Unity of Sudan as well as countries of asylum. Four Tripartite Agreements between Sudan, UNHCR, CAR, DRC, Ethiopia and Kenya respectively have been signed. UNHCR will work in partnership with the governments of asylum countries and the Sudanese authorities to ensure that the returnees are able to return in safety and dignity.

Internally Displaced Persons

UNHCR's involvement with IDPs is based on the UNCT Framework following the request by the Humanitarian Coordinator in May 2005 for UNHCR to play an active role in the return and reintegration of IDPs and refugees to Equatoria and Blue Nile States. The Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) made a similar call, in October 2005, to UNHCR to undertake a greater role in addressing the protection needs of IDPs in Khartoum and Kassala States.

UN agencies have endeavoured to set up the legal and policy mechanisms to address the rights and needs of returning displaced populations. The UN Returns Policy Framework was formulated in 2005 to address the following:

- *Provide assistance to displaced Sudanese in their current places of displacement;*
- *Support the spontaneous, voluntary, safe and dignified return of displaced Sudanese;*
- *Assist the reintegration of returnees in areas of arrival by strengthening basic services and providing community-based assistance;*
- *Conduct pilot assisted returns programme in fast quarter of 2005 as part of preparedness for comprehensive assisted returns in 2006;*
- *Provide emergency support to returnees.*

UNHCR has also taken an active role in establishing the UN Protection Framework for Returns, which outlines the key protection principles and standards that will guide all UN agencies and partner organisations in the implementation of the UN Returns Policy Framework. UNHCR has also actively participated in the design and the revision of the *UN Operational Plan for Spontaneous Returns*.



Returnees from Kakuma camp arrive in Bor. UNHCR/C. Morlang



Convoy for repatriation from CAR. UNHCR/V. Jerinkic

Protection Activities

Physical safety

M easures for ensuring the physical safety of the returning populations will include the provision of:

Special care and adequate medical facilities for vulnerable groups including refugee women, elderly, children including adolescents while in transit to final destinations;

Mass information on the security conditions in southern Sudan and advice on the potential threats to physical safety in some areas;

Awareness programmes to sensitize returning refugee and IDP communities to the risks that mines and other unexploded ordnances continue to pose in many areas in southern Sudan.

Legal safety

I n pursuit of respect for returnee human rights, UNHCR will actively:

Help build the capacity of law enforcement organs of the Government, the judiciary and other stake holders to adequately set up the legal mechanisms which address rights of returning IDP and refugee populations in accordance with the rule of law and human rights standards;

Monitor the return and reintegration of IDPs and refugees in order to address protection issues faced by returning populations and ensure that the rights to have their identity documents, land, education certificates, and the ability to return with their movable personal property without the payment of taxes are respected;

Strengthen the comprehensive programme developed in 2005 with FAO, UNDP, NRC and the Secretariat of Legal Affairs on land issues, including training paralegals;

Address legal gaps on gender inequality such as access to education, employment, inheritance and other basic rights;

Set up a strategy on prevention and response to gender-based violence;

Address the rights of couples married in countries of asylum and in particular the legality of marriages and the issue of citizenship of returning women who have married aliens;

Support the establishment and strengthening of peace committees and community dialogue encounters to create an environment that is receptive to return and increased confidence among communities.

Material safety

I n South Sudan the return and reintegration of displaced, IDPs and refugees, and support to receiving communities have to be through community-based programmes. In areas of its responsibility, UNHCR, in collaboration and in partnership with local authorities, line departments, sister UN agencies, NGOs, communities and the private sector, plans to assist returnee areas through community-based reintegration projects (CBRPs), in particular to:

Encourage and support participation of women, youth and community organizations in the design and implementation of CBRPs that also address the needs of women, youth and community organizations;

Rehabilitate and arrange for support to health units, health centres and county hospitals;

Rehabilitate and arrange for support to primary schools;

Rehabilitate and drill boreholes to ensure access to safe drinking water; and,

Provide seeds and tools and provide appropriate technology tools to community organizations/women associations for livelihoods and income generating activities.

Operational Strategic Framework

The challenges for post-conflict development needs in South Sudan are enormous. During the first two years, UNHCR will focus on immediate and short-term interventions creating grounds, among others, for the return and reintegration of the displaced population.

The Government of Sudan and SPLM through GoS/SPLM/UN/World Bank Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) agreed to the following measurable goals by the year 2011 in relation to displacement on community-based recovery:

- 1) Support return, reintegration, local integration and resettlement (of IDPs within Sudan) of estimated 6.7 million displaced persons.
- 2) Improved access to basic social services including HIV/AIDS and increase local economic activity in war-affected and least developed communities.
- 3) Improved effectiveness of national protection mechanisms.
- 4) Improved effectiveness of local development initiatives in the most vulnerable communities in Sudan.
- 5) Enhance self-reliance of returnees and minimize humanitarian aid.

UNHCR's reintegration interventions, based on the 4Rs approach is area-based and cross-sectoral focusing on urgent and immediate needs of the returnees; IDPs and refugees and the communities to which they return or resettle. UNHCR's vehicle for implementing its reintegration strategy is through Community-Based Reintegration Projects (CBRPs).

The 4Rs programming approach facilitates linkages between return and reintegration of displaced populations with recovery and development activities. The community-based reintegration projects are designed to form part of an overall 4Rs programme, and to the extent possible are in conformity with the priorities identified in the social protection and livelihoods chapter of the JAM and the UN Work Plan 2006.

The Return Policy Framework developed by the UNCT outlines the implementation of the reintegration strategy in accordance with gender and age mainstreaming and targets the following sectors: food, security and livelihoods, health, water and sanitation, mines and

UXOs, protection, education, nutrition, infrastructure, rule of law and governance.

Mode of transportation

The repatriation of refugees will involve a combination of air, road and river transport. UNHCR and IOM have entered into a cost-sharing agreement for the repatriation of refugees from CAR by air. Arrangements are also being made to establish a regional framework agreement by the two organizations for all repatriation movements by air from asylum countries. Discussions have likewise been initiated to include river transport, especially between Juba, Bor and Malakal under the framework agreement.

Way stations

Strategically located way stations will provide essential services and protection en route and prior to dispersal. UNHCR is responsible for 15 way stations in South Sudan to be established in phases linked to repatriation movements. These way stations are in Tambura, Ezo, Yambio, Maridi, Mambe, Mundri, Juba, Kajo Keji, Juba, Kapoeta, Bor, Pochalla, Malakal, Nassir and Chali. IOM and NRC are responsible for a number of way stations in other parts of South Sudan. In the countries of asylum, a number of collection points in settlements/camps and way stations are under construction. These include collection points in Mboki/CAR, DRC, Uganda, and transit centres/way stations in Aba/DRC, Mboki/CAR, Loki/Kenya and Ethiopia.

The construction of eight way stations with temporary shelters and sanitation facilities started in 2005 to support repatriation operations. Way-station sites will be gradually upgraded in the months to come based on assessments of existing infrastructure capacities, particularly water and health facilities. Way stations will support a maximum of 500 returnees per night. The UNHCR Mine Action Advisory Team (MAAT) is consulted on site selection and assurances that a site is clear of mines and unexploded ordnance.

UNHCR South Sudan-Creating grounds for sustained returns and reintegration



Operational Activities

On 1 October 2005, UNHCR established an Office with an Operations Manager based in Juba. The Manager has full operational responsibility for UNHCR's activities in South Sudan. All sub-offices report to the Operations Manager except for offices in the Blue Nile States which report to the Branch Office in Khartoum. The Branch Office in Khartoum provides technical and administrative support as required to the South Sudan Operation.

UNHCR currently has 12 offices in South Sudan: Bor, Damazine, Juba, Kajo-Keji, Kapoeta, Kurmuk, Malakal, Nasir, Rumbek, Tambura, Yambio and Yei, supported by 145 field staff: 74 international (including UNVs, consultants and secondees) and 71 national staff.

Returnee area profiles

To increase country of origin information on South Sudan, UNHCR has introduced Village Assessment Forms for completion by field staff during field visits. Collected information will be analysed and stored in a central database in Juba and used for mass information campaigns for refugees. Factual information on areas of return, the effects of war, the living conditions and the gradual improvement will be communicated. Refugees are hearing about the changed circumstances since the signing of the CPA. These include: demining of roads, general improvement of conditions in areas of return and community-based reintegration projects. The coming months will present the best possible opportunity for assisted return. Returnees are also expected to play a major role in improving conditions for themselves and their communities in South Sudan.

Absorption capacity in areas of return

The population in the south has traditionally relied on pastoral activities, subsistence farming and fishing along major rivers. The civil war has created a widespread loss of production and income for those who remained in Sudan. Insecurity, displacement and the need to seek refuge has also resulted in the abandonment of income-generating activities. The lack of food production has resulted in a malnourished population heavily dependant on the World Food Programme for food aid. The absorption capacity is therefore very limited.

In 2006, the *Community-Based Reintegration Projects (CBRPs)* will continue to focus

on urgent and immediate needs of and the most appropriate support to the returnees, refugees and IDPs, and the communities to which they return or resettle. Strengthening the capacity of local institutions and communities, also by providing technical know how to conduct area based planning and community-based reintegration will remain part of UNHCR reintegration strategy. It is evident that UNHCR presence, protection and CBRPs interventions in Western Equatoria in 2005, helped address the needs of spontaneous returnees and receiving communities in areas of return, and anchored return. These interventions also helped develop absorption capacity of receiving communities and regional, local authorities and created an environment conducive to sustainable return. The results are becoming increasingly evident as return and reintegration in secure areas of Western Equatoria is less challenging compared to areas in Eastern Equatoria where UNHCR interventions started only recently.

Khartoum and Kassala States

The main operational activities in 2006 will focus on legal assistance and protection and will include:

Gathering accurate information on protection issues in the IDP camps in Khartoum and Kassala States, establishing systematic protection monitoring and ensuring coordinated interventions and advocacy on behalf of IDPs. UNHCR will organize go-and-see visits as part of facilitating the informed and voluntary return of the IDPs. Capacity-building activities include training and seminars for stakeholders and high level authorities, civil society organizations and NGOs to increase the knowledge about IDPs.

Initiating interventions with community-based institutions and traditional networks that seek to prevent, mitigate and respond to the protection and conflict-related problems. Special provision has been made to assist women, children, the elderly and other individuals with specific needs to include HIV/AIDS and other risks.

Providing support to implementing agencies in terms of materials and office equipment in order for them to deliver the agreed upon outputs in a timely manner.

Regional Operational Activities: Countries of Asylum

The key objectives for the operational activities in countries of asylum in 2006 will be to:

- Establish Tripartite Commissions with government counterparts on repatriation;
- Design and begin mass information campaigns in close consultation with governments, including mine risk education, HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns and "go and see visits";
- Create a standardized refugee database in all countries of asylum; develop voluntary repatriation forms and register for repatriation;
- Complete refugee documentation - birth certificates, death certificates, marriage certificates, education, etc.;
- Improve preparedness and arrangements for movements, including collection of data on road conditions, border crossing points and potential transport arrangements;
- Conduct surveys to better understand intentions of refugees;
- Identify and repair/construct repatriation related infrastructure such as way stations, major roads leading to border crossing points, repair of critical bridges, etc.;
- Assess repatriation needs of refugees and post-repatriation needs of refugee hosting communities/areas and, if necessary, re-orient assistance programmes towards preparedness for repatriation in areas such vocational training and income-generation activities;
- Identify and procure logistics assets for repatriation;
- Procure and pre-position non food items for returnee packages.

Central African Republic

UNHCR and IOM signed a Letter of Intent for air repatriations of Sudanese refugees from Mboki to Tambura in late 2005. The first return movement started from Mboki on 2 February 2006 with 49 refugees returning to Tambura by air. At the time of writing, 618 refugees have already returned and some 2,400 refugees are expected to return each month. 12,000 returnees are expected to return to South Sudan by the end of June 2006. Several boreholes will be dug, latrines constructed and the Mboki hospital renovated to ensure adequate supply of potable water and to maintain hygiene standards during the repatriation. Supported by the Environment Ministry, UNHCR will put into place reforestation activities to repair the damage on the ecosystem caused by the refugees' presence. UNHCR and its partners will also be responsible for

legal protection and refugee documentation.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo

UNHCR will complete the preparatory activities, initiated in 2005 for the movement of refugees from Aba and concentrate on preparatory activities in the Doruma and Dungu areas in 2006. Access roads and bridges will be rehabilitated and transit centres and rest points will either be rehabilitated or constructed. A water system will be put in place which will serve the local population after the completion of the repatriation exercise. Refugees will be medically screened to identify the vulnerable groups.

Egypt

Refugee leaders will participate in go-and-see

visits to better understand the security situation and prospects for return in Sudan. Return movements will take place by land through Aswan and Wadi Halfa for refugees returning to the North, and by air for refugees returning to South Sudan. Voluntary repatriation registration forms will be printed and information campaigns undertaken to disseminate accurate information to refugees.

Eritrea

For the small Sudanese refugee population in Eritrea wishing to return, activities will be limited to provision of non-food items and information campaigns. The refugees will be transported primarily by charter flight to their final destinations given the small numbers per destination.

Ethiopia

Following substantial preparatory activities in 2005, UNHCR will construct 4 assembly points and way stations. Road segments will be maintained and crossing points on the access roads constructed. UNHCR will facilitate go-and-see visits by refugee elders to potential areas of return in Sudan. UNHCR will procure non-food items, spare parts for cargo trucks and water tankers, fuel/lubricants, emergency medical kits and delivery kits for the way stations and the maintenance of repatriation routes. Awareness and sensitization campaigns will be conducted on mine risk education and HIV/AIDS. Temporary water points at assembly points and way stations will be established to ensure the provision of safe and adequate water to those in transit.

Kenya

UNHCR will enhance the voluntary repatriation activities initiated in 2005, especially skills enhancement, to ensure quick reintegration and peaceful co-existence between communities. Training in mine risk awareness, public health and HIV/AIDS as well as in water usage, Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and peace building will be provided. Information campaigns will be carried out to ensure that refugees fully understand the voluntary nature of repatriation and the need to make informed decisions outside the aspiration or intentions of their leaders. Go-and-see visits will be organized to places of intended return as part of

the information campaign and leaflets will be updated periodically to include recent developments inside Sudan. Environmental rehabilitation programmes will be initiated in areas to be vacated by refugees.

Uganda

Teacher training and vocational skills training in different trades will be provided to refugees. Awareness campaigns to inform refugees on the conditions in their home country, to alert them to risks posed by mines and unexploded ordnance, and to raise awareness on conflict resolution will be provided. Health facilities will be enforced to ensure that refugees are screened and vulnerable cases identified and treated prior to travel. A bridge over the Tete River will be completed and spot road repairs will be undertaken. Shelters and sanitation facilities will be built on sites identified for collection centres. A barge to cross the River Nile will be purchased.

Inter-Agency Collaboration

Working with partners

The United Nations programme in Sudan is set out in the 2006 UN Work Plan. This provides details on the joint strategic approach, operational plans, priorities and indicative projects to which UNHCR is party. It has been prepared in consultation with Sudanese authorities at local, regional and national levels. To ensure the rapid implementation of the Work Plan, a number of donors have agreed to establish the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) for fast disbursement of funds for the activities in the Work Plan.

UNHCR will implement its activities in South Sudan in collaboration with Government agencies: the Commissioner for Refugees of the Ministry of Interior (COR), the Humanitarian Affairs Commission (HAC) and Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SRRRC), local and international NGOs and local community-based organisations as well as UN agencies such as IOM, WFP, FAO, ICRC, UNDP, UNICEF, UN Mine Action Services, and UN Mission in Sudan and UNVs.

Funding Overview for 2005

| Return and Reintegration of Sudanese Refugees to Southern Sudan | |
|--|-------------------|
| Total Requirements: USD 76,347,770 of which | |
| South Sudan: USD 54,532,745 | |
| Countries of asylum: USD 20,093,476 | |
| HQ: USD 1,721,549 | |
| Donors | Total |
| Belgium | 726,392 |
| Canada | 578,512 |
| Denmark | 2,208,202 |
| Germany (1) | 1,293,661 |
| Japan | 5,892,022 |
| Netherlands | 3,928,000 |
| Norway | 4,172,042 |
| Spain (2) | 1,522,531 |
| Sweden | 1,512,859 |
| Switzerland | 387,597 |
| United Kingdom | 4,825,909 |
| United States of America | 18,000,000 |
| Total: Governments + EC | 45,047,727 |
| Private individual donors (JPN) | 21,622 |
| Private individual donors (USA) | 6,829 |
| Total: Private Sector | 28,451 |
| TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS | 45,076,178 |
| Loan from CERF | 5,000,000 |
| Carry over | 4,989,097 |
| GRAND TOTAL | 55,065,275 |

(1) USD 1,293,661 for the South Sudan supplementary programme is earmarked for Ethiopia. USD 1,047,371 is an extra-budgetary in-kind contribution from BMZ channeled through GTZ.

(2) Contributions from the central government and other public administrations, the latter channeled through España con ACNUR

Operational Requirements for 2006

Refugees and IDPs in South Sudan

Total requirements: USD 63,203,697 of which:

- USD 46,809,344 for South Sudan, and
- USD 13,846,074 for countries of asylum
- USD 2,548,279 HQs Support Costs

Contributions received to date:

- USD 8,004,773 from the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) in January 2006 through the Office of the Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan.

IDPs in Khartoum and Kassala States

Total requirements: USD 2,659,546

Contributions received to date:

- USD 625,000 from the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) through the Office of the Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan.

Annex 1

Return & Reintegration of Sudanese refugees to Southern Sudan Overall Requirements for 1 January to 31 December 2006

(in US\$)

| ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES | CAR | DRC | EGYPT | ERITREA | ETHIOPIA | KENYA | SUDAN | UGANDA | HQs + Auditor | TOTAL IN USD |
|--|------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Protection, Monitoring & Co-ordination | 595,199 | 235,893 | 36,611 | - | 238,774 | 563,056 | 16,843,322 | 979,583 | - | 19,492,438 |
| Community Services | | 15,924 | | 833 | 167,271 | 80,000 | 695,697 | 52,491 | - | 1,012,216 |
| Crop Production | | | | | | | 250,000 | | - | 250,000 |
| Domestic Needs/Household Support | 21,988 | | 203,250 | 11,463 | 29,458 | 150,000 | 1,116,801 | 25,000 | - | 1,557,960 |
| Education | 63,331 | | | | | 512,736 | 2,573,109 | 220,000 | - | 3,369,176 |
| Fisheries | | | | | | | | | - | - |
| Food | | 10,500 | | 4,400 | 112,215 | 100,000 | | | - | 227,115 |
| Forestry (Environment) | 84,325 | 55,320 | | | | 50,000 | | | - | 189,645 |
| Health/Nutrition | 89,294 | 75,356 | | 400 | 103,349 | 275,000 | 2,716,000 | 75,000 | - | 3,334,399 |
| Income Generation | | | | | | | 452,250 | | - | 452,250 |
| Legal Assistance / Protection | 74,941 | 62,500 | 73,609 | 2,000 | 499,456 | 300,000 | 3,970,709 | 325,000 | - | 5,308,215 |
| Livestock | | | | | | | | | - | - |
| Operational Support (to agencies) | 93,223 | 117,622 | | | | 235,000 | 2,950,000 | 100,000 | - | 3,495,845 |
| Sanitation | 10,994 | 17,300 | | | | 25,102 | 668,203 | | - | 721,599 |
| Shelter / Other Infrastructure | 36,646 | 47,500 | | | 511,995 | 300,000 | 3,365,200 | 175,000 | - | 4,436,341 |
| Transport / Logistics | 794,323 | 205,929 | 810,000 | 166,833 | 993,106 | 550,000 | 3,519,042 | 550,000 | - | 7,589,233 |
| Water (non-agricultural) | 4,178 | 12,500 | | | 27,105 | 50,000 | 1,568,534 | | - | 1,662,317 |
| Total Operations in USD | 1,868,442 | 856,344 | 1,123,470 | 185,929 | 2,682,729 | 3,190,894 | 40,688,867 | 2,502,074 | - | 53,098,749 |
| Support Costs 7% | 130,791 | 59,944 | 78,643 | 13,015 | 187,791 | 223,363 | 2,848,221 | 175,145 | - | 3,716,912 |
| Programme Support | - | - | 36,611 | - | - | 419,213 | 3,272,256 | 111,677 | 2,548,279 | 6,388,036 |
| Grand Total in USD | 1,999,233 | 916,288 | 1,238,724 | 198,944 | 2,870,520 | 3,833,470 | 46,809,344 | 2,788,896 | 2,548,279 | 63,203,697 |

Annex II

Protection of IDPs in Khartoum and Kassala States of Sudan

| 1 JANUARY - 31 DECEMBER 2006 | |
|--|------------------|
| ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES | |
| Protection, Monitoring & Co-ordination | 740,828 |
| Community Services | 391,509 |
| Legal Assistance / Protection | 1,127,008 |
| Operational Support (to Agencies) | 211,019 |
| Total Operations in USD | 2,470,364 |
| Support Costs 7% | 159,546 |
| Programme Support | 29,636 |
| GRAND TOTAL in USD | 2,659,546 |

Annex III

Plan of action for the voluntary return and reintegration of Sudanese refugees in areas of South Sudan: Returns up to the end of the first dry season (May 2006)¹

| COUNTRY OF ASYLUM | NUMBER OF REGISTERED REFUGEES FOR VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION | AREAS OF RETURN IN SOUTH SUDAN |
|--|---|--|
| Central Africa Republic Tripartite Agreement signed (1 February 2006) | 12,000 in Mboki settlement area. | On-going by air in partnership with IOM to Tambura. Efforts underway to open up an additional air corridor from Mboki to Yambio to increase number of flights from 12 to 18 per week - repatriating 900 refugees per week. |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo Tripartite Agreement signed (30 January 2006) | 2,300 in Dungu and Doruma (plus 6,000 in Aba - security permitting). | Repatriation by road using UNHCR truck fleet, initially from Dungu and Doruma to Yambio, Naandi and Ezo regions. Other areas include Bahr-el-Ghazal (BEG) and Juba. Aba road corridor to be made operational to start repatriation to Yei as soon as security situation improves (sporadic LRA activity area). |
| Uganda Date for Tripartite Agreement to be confirmed | More than 29,000 refugees in Palorinya, Rhino, Imvepi and Kiryandongo settlements have registered to return before the end of the current dry season. | Initially two road corridors will be opened - Palorinya/Moyo to Kangapo I and II in Kajo Keji; and from Rhino and Impevi/Arua to Yei. Preliminary plans made to expand operations from Kiryandongo to Juba. Return to Magwi/Torit will not be encouraged due to LRA activity in the area. |
| Kenya Tripartite Agreement signed (12 January 2006) | Over 11,000 refugees have registered to return from Kakuma camp. | Most refugees will return to Bor and Kapoeta by air and road from Kakuma. |
| Ethiopia Tripartite Agreement signed on 27 February 2006 | 18,000 Uduk refugees in Bonga settlement wish to be repatriated. | All Uduk refugees will return to southern Blue Nile State. Repatriation of first group of Uduks to Chali/Kurmuk will start by road in mid-March 2006. Discussions are ongoing with IOM for the repatriation by air of approximately 1,800 Dinkas to Bahr-el-Ghazal and Jonglei States. |
| Eritrea | 250 refugees have opted for repatriation to various locations in South Sudan | A first group of 89 refugees wishes to return to Khartoum, Bahr-el Ghazal, Upper Nile and Kassala States. |
| Egypt Date for signing of Tripartite Agreement to be confirmed | Registration for voluntary repatriation, possibly starting in April 2006 | At this stage, repatriation will target those among the 14,000 registered refugees who have expressed their willingness to return to North and South Sudan. |

¹ UNHCR has set itself the target of 58,000 organized returns by end May 2006, security and resources permitting.

Annex IV

Projected Return of Sudanese refugees up to December 2006



SUDAN
Projected Return of Sudanese Refugees
 December 2005

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