



IOM · OIM

# IOM Kenya's Assistance to Refugees from South Sudan

EXTERNAL SITUATION REPORT

27 June - 6 July 2014



Refugees arriving at Nadapal border point. © IOM 2014 (Photo: Joseph Kabiru)

## HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ **Security scare at Nadapal border point when refugees were caught up in a gunfire fight between Kenyan and South Sudanese security forces**

## OVERVIEW

IOM continues to provide transportation assistance to South Sudanese refugees from Nadapal border point to Kakuma Refugee Camp. However, on 29 June, there was a security scare at the Nadapal Reception Centre after Kenyan security forces engaged Sudan People's Liberation soldiers in an intense one-hour gun fight. The conflict was triggered after the soldiers crossed the Kenyan border in pursuit of cattle rustlers from the Turkana community in Kenya who had earlier staged a daring cattle raid and made away with approximately 100 cattle from the Toposa community in South Sudan. Refugees who were caught up in the gunfire were quickly led into an IOM hired bus which later sped off to safety. One injured refugee was rushed to Lokichoggio hospital 95km from Nadapal, where he was treated for head injuries and discharged. Kenyan security forces later repulsed the SPLA soldiers and security was strengthened at the border point as normal operations resumed the following day.

## TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE

Since the onset of the crisis, 39,919 South Sudan refugees have entered the country (UNHCR 4 July). During this reporting period, IOM transported 650 refugees to Kakuma Refugee Camp, compared to 379 refugees transported in the previous week. Most of the arriving refugees were from Bor, Malakal and Juba. Meanwhile, the Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA) has begun registering refugees three times a week and has urged UNHCR to hasten the process of the construction of the Transit Centre at the border point.

The centre which has been under construction for the past six months is now 95 per cent complete. DRA and humanitarian actors

Story told by 16 year old Alex Acholi\*\*, who was a Form 1 student:



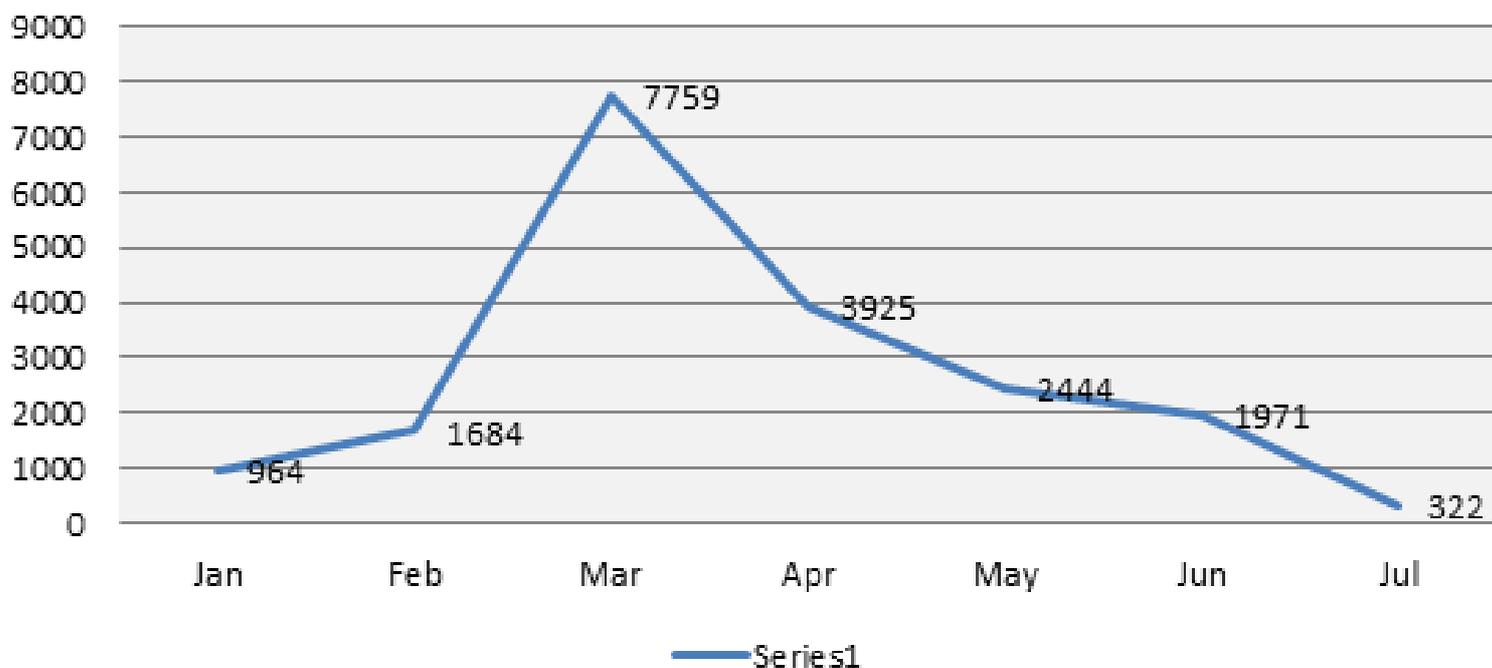
Our village in the outskirts of Juba was attacked in the middle of the night by rebel forces in February. They looted and torched our houses. They mercilessly hacked to death anyone who crossed their path. In the confusion, together with other villagers, we took to our heels and headed to Bor, where my uncle housed me for three months. I came to learn that my father, mother and three sisters fled to Juba and later headed to Kenya. In Bor, violence raged on. As the war took a tribal angle, my uncle and I knew could be the next targets. I made a decision to run as I witnessed over 100 children under 15 years old rounded up, shot dead and buried in a mass grave. Some of the children who survived the massacre were enlisted in the rebel's ranks and file. I fled to Kapoeta town, and after a few days rest, I headed to Juba to hire a car to travel to Kenya with my compatriots. The massacre of the children has left me so traumatised that I need counselling, but I'm happy I will join my family. I worry whether I can resume my studies in Kenya.



\*\* Name has been changed to protect his identity.

agreed the registration exercise should take place on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday of every week. Meanwhile, on 6 July 2014, IOM didn't transport any refugees following heavy rains in South Sudan towns of Kapoeta, Torit and Juba. The heavy rains made the roads impassable and the lagas (seasonal rivers) were full and is hindering the onward movement of refugees to the border point. However, IOM is operating its daily convoy to the border point.

## Total Moved by IOM 22 Jan to 6 Jul



During the month of January IOM provides transportation for an average of 964 refugees and the figure spiraled to 7,759 refugees in March, marking the peak of arriving refugees since the onset of the crisis. The numbers started to drop in April and reached its lowest in June with 1,971 refugees arriving and provided with onward transportation. Most of the arriving refugees, mainly women and children, are in a good state of health. In June, heavy rains in Juba, Jonglei, Kapoeta and Torit, coupled with lack of funds by the refugees, continued to hinder the onward movement of refugees to the border point, hence the low number of arriving refugees. Some of the refugees are taking up temporary jobs to finance their journey to Kenya. UNHCR is negotiating with the County Government of Turkana to be allocated additional land to settle new arrivals after the Kakuma Camp reached its maximum holding capacity.

## Total number of Refugees moved by IOM from 22 January to 6 July 2014

