

3– 9 September 2012

HIGHLIGHTS

- Malnutrition rates in Yusuf Batil refugee camp in Upper Nile reduce, but are still over the global emergency threshold.
- Access to remote locations is severely curtailed due to seasonal rains. Refugee partners are preparing to airdrop food to Yida in Unity State to ensure food assistance to disaster-affected people.
- About 125,000 people have been affected by seasonal flooding in Jonglei State.

2012 FIGURES

Conflict incidents	204
Number of people newly displaced	167,931

Source: OCHA based on reports from local authorities and assessment teams. Figures as of 31 August 2012.

Health surveillance activities have been enhanced in flood affected counties.



A girl in the Yusuf Batil refugee camp fills her jerry cans with water and arranges the chords of her stick to carry them. (UNHCR)

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Situation overview

Aid workers continue to provide humanitarian assistance to about 170,000 Sudanese refugees in Unity and Upper Nile states. The high mortality and malnutrition rates have started to decrease as a result of the joint efforts of humanitarian actors, according to the UN Refugee Agency, UNHCR. However, the situation remains precarious and the agency underlines a need to sustain and expand health, nutrition and hygiene campaigns and outreach, and secure food stocks until the end of the year. The logistic capacity to reach remote camps also needs to be ensured as well as preparedness for a possible surge in new arrivals at the end of the rainy season around November. Efforts to assess and respond to people affected by seasonal flooding across the country have also continued. Inter-agency assessment teams in Jonglei State reports some 125,000 people flood affected in need of some kind of humanitarian assistance.

Humanitarian challenges, needs and response

Aid workers respond to people affected by seasonal flooding

Seasonal rains continue and flooding incidents have been reported in nine of the 10 states. Areas reportedly most affected are parts of Jonglei, Lakes, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Unity and Upper Nile. However, most floods so far have not warranted major humanitarian interventions due to their predictable and localized nature. The humanitarian community continues to monitor the situation and conduct rapid needs assessments to determine any need of humanitarian assistance for flood-affected people. Surveillance activities by the Health Cluster have also been enhanced in all flood-affected counties across the country and an Emergency Flood Task Force has been established by the Ministry of Health. Access to some flood-affected areas remains limited due to weak infrastructure affected by the heavy rains. In Jonglei and Unity states, assessment missions have been delayed due to insecurity in the areas of the reported flooding.

Humanitarian response is ongoing across the country. The most commonly identified needs are household items, shelter, food, and water, sanitation and hygiene. In Jonglei State, where inter-agency assessments report that 125,000 people have been affected by the seasonal flooding and are in need of humanitarian assistance, roads are impassible for the delivery of emergency supplies. To ensure assistance, the Logistics Cluster will use one of its two helicopters to respond to people in hard-to-reach areas.

Whilst some communities affected have experienced slow rising floods, and as such have been able to relocate with some of their belongings, there are concerns about the effects on crops and communities' livelihood. Concerns were also raised by the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster about a possible El Nino situation (which can cause extreme weather) towards the end of 2012. This could extend the flood season beyond its normal period and also affect the crop season and livelihood opportunities.

BASELINE

Population (NBS)	8.26 million
GDP per capita (SSNBS)	\$1,546
% pop living on less than \$1.25 per day (UNDP)	51%
Life expectancy (Health Survey 2006)	42 years
Under-five mortality (MoH)	135/1,000
<5 global acute malnutrition rate (SSNBS)	18.1%

CLUSTERS

Lead/Co-lead organization

Education	UNICEF Save the Children
Emergency returns sector	IOM UNHCR
Emergency telecommunications	WFP
Food security & livelihoods	FAO/WFP VSF-B
Health	WHO GOAL
Logistics	WFP
Non-food items & emergency shelter	IOM World Vision
Nutrition	UNICEF ACF
Protection	UNHCR NRC
Water, sanitation & hygiene	UNICEF Medair

2.4 million

Food-insecure people targeted (4.7 million at risk of food insecurity).

Source: CAP MYR 2012)

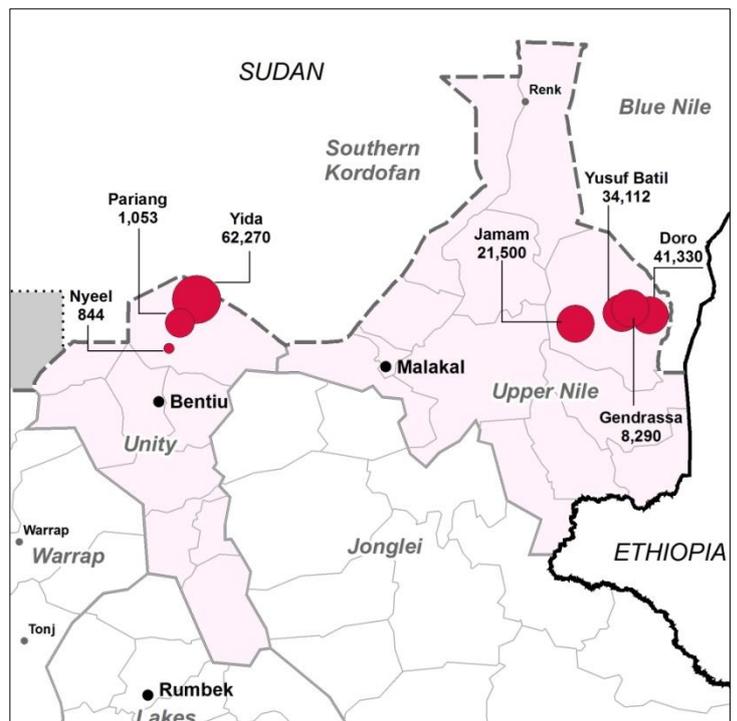
Insecurity hampers humanitarian access to conflict area in Jonglei State

Following reports of clashes in August between the South Sudan army (SPLA) and a rebel militia group in the vicinity of Likuangole in Pibor County, Jonglei State, initial reports by local authorities indicate 4,500 people have been displaced from Likuangole town and are scattered in settlements along the river toward Pibor. Aid workers are working to further determine the situation and respond to the humanitarian needs of the affected people, but have not been able to reach the affected people yet due to insecurity. Key needs among the displaced are reported to be shelter and household items.

Refugee update

Nutrition campaign helps decrease malnutrition rates in Upper Nile

The high morbidity and mortality rates among refugees remain a cause of concern. The main causes of morbidity among refugees are watery diarrhoea, malnutrition and upper tract respiratory infections. According to UNHCR, the global acute malnutrition rates (GAM), have improved as a result of the health, hygiene and nutrition campaign initiated in all settlements in Maban in August. The GAM rates in the Yusuf Batil site, where the highest rates were recorded, have reduced from over 39 per cent to 22 per cent. The WHO emergency threshold is 15 per cent GAM. Further decentralized nutrition points are being set up in Yusuf Batil and Doro settlements for blanket and targeted supplementary feeding to address the high mortality, morbidity and malnutrition rates in the settlements. UNHCR reports that sustained efforts will be required in the coming weeks.



Refugee influx from Sudan's Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states into South Sudan.

Aid workers are preparing for food airdrops at Yida

The number of new arrivals at the Yida refugee site in Unity State increased during the week from 205 people last week to 857 people this week bringing the number of people at the site to about 62,000 people. To respond to needs of all refugees at the camp, refugee partners are preparing for food airdrops, which are anticipated to start shortly. About 1,000 members of the refugee community have been mobilized to work during the airdrops. The preliminary plan is for two drops a day, six days a week for the next two months. An air transport officer will be deployed by the Logistics Cluster to coordinate the air traffic in Yida and the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) has started an emergency repair of the airstrip, which will restore air traffic for fixed wings aircrafts. The airlift of household items by UNHCR has resumed, prioritizing plastic sheeting and soap at a rate of four rotations a day until the food drops start. Distributions of plastic sheets have also begun for new arrivals and recently identified vulnerable families.

REFUGEES

Numbers in Upper Nile

Doro	41,330
Gendrassa	8,290
Jammam	21,500
Yusuf Batil	34,112
Total	105,232

Numbers in Unity

Nyeel	844
Pariang	1,051
Yida	62,270
Total	63,321

Source: UNHCR, figures as of 9 September 2012.

Agencies work to strengthen response in water, hygiene and sanitation

Hygiene promotion campaigns are ongoing in camps in Upper Nile. During the reporting period, partners agreed that two water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) meetings would be held during the week to enhance coordination of activities and response. UNHCR airlifted WASH supplies to further expand the water piping system in Yusuf Batil and reduce walking distances for refugees fetching water. Water distribution is one of the critical issues in Yusuf Batil settlement.

In Yida, a public health working group has been established to harmonize hygiene and health promotion campaigns towards prevention management of diarrhoea. A third additional borehole has been completed and work is underway to install the remaining infrastructure required to ensure the water point is operational. Hygiene promoters continue to be mobilized and hygiene education at health facilities waiting areas is ongoing.

Protection centre established in Jammam camp in Upper Nile

A new protection desk has been established at the community centre at Jammam. It will attend to refugees who report any incidents of threats, human rights violations or other protection issues for follow up and intervention. The desk will also provide information on the ongoing relocation from the Jammam camp to Gendrassa and how to access basic services such as food, water, health, education and counseling. The desk complements outreach conducted by protection staff for more confidential interviews.

Returns to South Sudan

Returns continue at a reduced level

The number of people returning to South Sudan continued at limited levels over the week. About 750 returnees were tracked heading to their final destinations, bringing the number of returnees to about 123,000 people this year, according to the Emergency Returns Sector. The number of returnees who are in transit or stranded in Renk in Upper Nile remains at about 14,000 people. Some 50 returnees were tracked arriving in Renk and about 260 people were tracked departing to other parts of Upper Nile.

Returnees stranded in Juba receive land

The preparation of the Kuda permanent settlement site in Terekeka County in Central Equatoria for returnees awaiting land in the transit site in Juba began during the week. Land clearance commenced, with humanitarian organizations assisting returnees with transport to and from the site to clear their land. The drilling of boreholes for water is also underway. Temporary shelter will be erected, while other basic services such as health facilities are established. It is hoped that all 1,700 returnees in the National Teacher Training transit site will be able to move there by the end of September. The majority of the about 2,100 people in the Juba way station await transport assistance to the Greater Bahr el Ghazal region. The first convoy of over 200 people will depart on 10 September.

Elsewhere in the country, humanitarian organizations distributed household items such as plastic sheets, mosquito nets, and blankets to over 785 households to returnees stranded in Renk. Aid workers also supported some 150 newly arriving returnees in Aweil in Northern Bahr el Ghazal from Juba, providing health care, clean drinking water, and registration for food assistance and further transport. In Unity State, relocation of stranded returnees from the Bentiu port to a transit site outside town is ongoing.

Consolidated Appeal

FUNDING

1.2 billion
requested (US\$)

602 million
received (US\$)

52% funded

Source: FTS

This report was prepared by the OCHA South Sudan office in collaboration with humanitarian partners. If you have inputs for the next edition, or questions/comments on the current issue, please contact: ochasouthsudan@un.org