

20 October 2011

## Highlights:

- Despite difficulties with road access due to rains, humanitarian assistance continued to be provided in Agok and Warrap State, where many people displaced by the Abyei conflict five months ago are located.
- Humanitarian partners continued to provide emergency relief to more than 16,000 people displaced into Unity State because of ongoing conflict in Southern Kordofan in Sudan.
- Two country-wide food security assessments have begun over the week, which will give further information on the projected food security situation in 2012.

## I. Situation Overview

The overall security situation in South Sudan was mostly calm over the week, although tensions remained in western Jonglei due to continued reported movements of rebel militia forces aligned to George Athor. Humanitarian activities during the week focused largely on providing relief to conflict-displaced populations. In the Agok area south of Abyei town, partners focused on delivering food aid and other relief to the population displaced by the conflict which broke out in Abyei in May. In Uror County in Jonglei State, partners continued to provide assistance to communities affected by inter-communal violence in mid-August. Humanitarian actors also continued to provide humanitarian assistance to populations in South Sudan who have fled ongoing conflicts in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile in Sudan, as well as preparing for an increase in organized returns of South Sudanese in Sudan planned in the coming weeks. Two food security assessments began this week to further help forecast the food security situation in South Sudan for 2012.

## II. Humanitarian challenges: needs and response

### Humanitarian assistance continue to the displaced population in the Agok area

Food security continued to be the main humanitarian concern among the displaced population from Abyei residing in the Agok area and Warrap State. Bad weather hampered food delivery to Agok, as Wunrok and Agok experienced rains which worsened road access. During the week, two food trucks became stuck on their way to Agok. However, despite the poor road conditions, 65.5 of some 170 metric tons of food allocated by the Government of South Sudan for the displaced population have reached Agok, with a further 32 metric tons in transit. Distribution of two-week food rations has taken place to 7,420 people. Furthermore, one-month food rations, provided by the Government of South Sudan, were distributed to some 4,000 people displaced from Abyei in the Warrap state capital, Kwajok, and 260 displaced people in Gogrial town, during the week.

With regard to the health needs of the displaced population in the Agok area, increasing cases of malaria were the primary health concern, according to health partners, although the numbers reported are not uncommon for this time of the year. Because of the high malaria incidence, one health facility in Agok reported that the number of patients had almost doubled to 150 consultations a day. Distribution is ongoing of 8,500 mosquito nets which have been delivered to Agok. In Warrap, a shortage of anti-malaria drugs has been reported by partners on the ground. In response to the lack of supplies, drugs are being mobilized for transportation from Juba. Health partners reported that a number of mobile health clinics serving displaced populations in Turalei, Mayen Abun, Malual Achot and Atonj are closing their facilities, to enable partners running longer term health programmes to take over. Displaced populations located in those areas will be able to access fixed health facilities nearby. In responding to sanitation needs in Agok, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) partners have completed the construction of 41 latrines and are working on the construction of a further 167 latrines.

The security situation reportedly remained unchanged in Abyei town with military presence continuing, and acting as the primary constraint to the return of the displaced population to Abyei. Of further concern to humanitarian partners is the absence of timely arrangements on North-South migration rights, which may increase conflict risks along the contested borderline area during the upcoming pastoralist migration season. The reconstruction of Banton Bridge, which links Abyei with Agok, is underway, with the destroyed bridge fully removed and the construction of the replacement bridge having begun. Reconstruction is expected to be completed by mid-

November, according to the UN peacekeeping mission, UNIFSA. Demining activities in the area have also continued.

### **Humanitarian response ongoing to 16,000 persons from Southern Kordofan in Unity**

According to the UN Refugee Agency, UNHCR, more than 16,000 persons affected by ongoing violence in Southern Kordofan in Sudan have fled to Unity State. These individuals remain in an insecure location at the border with Sudan which is close to areas where regular aerial bombardments have taken place. A further 2,000 displaced persons from Southern Kordofan are reported to have fled to other locations in South Sudan.

Partners continued to respond to the displaced population in Unity. As of 14 October, 450 metric tons of food had been dispatched to the border location by air, enough food to feed 16,000 people for up to two months. Distribution of the food to the population took place several times during the week. As the need for clean water has been identified as an increasing concern due to the influx of new arrivals, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) partners are working to transport a borehole drilling rig to the area where the population is located. The registration of unaccompanied and separated children is ongoing, with over 1,200 children registered so far. In the area of protection, partners deployed three staff to assist in protection monitoring and another three persons are to be hired from the local population. Malnutrition has continued to be treated at the site by nutrition partners. In addition, health partners are planning to carry out a measles vaccination campaign next week.

### **Assessment identifies persons displaced in Upper Nile from Blue Nile**

An inter-agency mission visited Maban County in Upper Nile from 10-13 October, to confirm information about people displaced by the ongoing conflict in Blue Nile in Sudan. The team reported that according to local authorities, some 11,000 South Sudanese have fled Blue Nile due to the conflict and are located in Maban. Also according to local authorities, one-month food rations for some 9,000 people have been distributed in the area. Another 489 displaced persons were identified by the assessment as having fled the fighting in Blue Nile – these will go through a formal registration process to determine their status. Recent flooding has continued to impede access to some areas where it is thought that other persons displaced by the conflict may be located. The key needs of the 489 persons identified by the assessment team were food, medical support and non-food items (NFIs), all of which are low in stock in the area and require replenishment.

### **Humanitarian relief continues to be airlifted to conflict-affected population in Jonglei**

In Jonglei, the response continued to the displaced population in Pieri payam in Urur County, following the inter-communal attack on 18 August. Due to impassable roads, airlifting of food supplies is ongoing with some 49 metric tons of food having been airlifted to date to the reported 13,400 displaced persons in Pieri. Further food had been planned for distribution during the week, but a shortage of available air assets interrupted food movements. However, activities should continue as planned next week. A total of 195 metric tons of food is scheduled to be delivered by air to conflict affected people in Pieri.

On 17 October, the Minister for Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, along with other government officials and humanitarian partners, visited Pieri on a one-day mission to monitor the response on the ground. In addition to food assistance which had just arrived, the issue of protection was highlighted by the population, with the community requesting additional security in the area to protect them from possible further attacks. Protection partners have confirmed that 136 children are still missing from Pieri and 14 have been orphaned, while the number of separated children is still to be determined.

In Gumruk payam in Pibor County, an assessment took place on 19 October in response to local partners reporting additional humanitarian needs, following an inter-communal attack in June. The assessment team identified 300-400 households as vulnerable and in need of NFIs. In addition, the provision of a temporary learning space to facilitate learning because a school was destroyed during the attack was recommended. In western Jonglei, tensions remained high due to the reported movements of rebel militia forces aligned to George Athor between Ayod and Duk counties.

### **Food security assessments underway to provide indication of food levels for 2012**

The food security and livelihoods cluster continued to closely monitor the critical food security situation in South Sudan. Partners have engaged in two data collection exercises which will help to provide information about the expected food security situation for 2012. Data collection for the country-wide food security household survey, the Food Security and Monitoring System, is ongoing and expected to be completed by end of October/early

November. In addition, the Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission started on 18 October and is expected to have preliminary results by mid-November.

### Humanitarian relief reaches flood-affected population in Lakes State

Humanitarian actors continued to provide relief to the population affected by recent flooding in Lakes State, which affected Wulu, and Rumbek North and East counties in September. Close to 14 metric tons of food has been delivered to the flood-affected communities during the week, targeting 3,380 individuals with rations lasting up to 15 days.

## III. Returns to South Sudan

Returnee Overview by State*											
State:	Upper Nile	Unity	Warrap	Northern Bahr el Ghazal	Western Bahr el Ghazal	Lakes	Jonglei	Western Equatoria	Central Equatoria	Eastern Equatoria	Total
New Arrivals 12-18 Oct.	47	440	64	0	72	0	45	0	0	0	<b>668</b>
Previous Arrivals (adjustments)	0	103	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>103</b>
Previous Total	57,125	85,600	32,152	66,157	19,282	17,332	19,873	1,334	37,445	10,304	<b>346,604</b>
<b>Updated Total</b>	<b>57,172</b>	<b>86,143</b>	<b>32,216</b>	<b>66,157</b>	<b>19,354</b>	<b>17,332</b>	<b>19,918</b>	<b>1,334</b>	<b>37,445</b>	<b>10,304</b>	<b>347,375</b>
Type of Returnee											
Government Assisted	25,267	32,080	16,770	21,550	7,623	15,627	16,090	818	23,193	8,865	167,883
Spontaneous	16,755	54,063	6,189	43,216	11,731	1,435	3,798	467	14,252	1,439	153,345
Unspecified	15,150	0	9,257	1,391	0	270	30	49	0	0	26,147

\*since 30 October 2010. Contains only verified IOM data unless otherwise noted. Figures are as of 18 October 2011.

### Increased organized returns planned in coming weeks

Despite the pace of returns to South Sudan slowing over recent weeks, returnee movements are expected to increase shortly, with trains supported by IOM carrying 4,000 returnees expected to depart Khartoum for Greater Bahr el Ghazal next week and another 8,000 returnees from Khartoum scheduled to come by train in subsequent weeks. An additional 6,000 persons are also to be transported from Kostis by IOM, although the timeframe for this is not yet clear. IOM is also finalizing a contract with a barge company that will see 2,700 individuals moved from Renk to points further southward. New arrivals in final destinations over the week stood at 700 persons bringing the cumulative total of returns to South Sudan to more than 347,300 since October 2010.

### Planning and response focuses on Greater Bahr el Ghazal and Upper Nile

In preparation for the arrival of a projected 12,000 returnees by train to Greater Bahr el Ghazal in coming weeks, humanitarian partners are upgrading sanitation and drinking water services at the Aweil railway station and are assessing the feasibility of constructing an emergency septic tank to support waste management. Food and protection assistance will also be provided on arrival. The state governments of Northern and Western Bahr el Ghazal have activated returnee reception committees that will assist with initial reintegration, including community-provided shelter, food support and land issues. Government authorities have also been undertaking maintenance on the railway between Aweil and Wau, which was damaged by the rainy season. In the event that returnees bound for Wau are unable to continue the journey by train due to the condition of the railway, IOM will provide road transport. Twenty protection monitors will also accompany the train movement.

In Aweil in Northern Bahr el Ghazal, seven boreholes have been drilled at the Nyalath final destination site, in preparation for the planned movements of returnees from the Apada transit site. Other WASH interventions are being planned such as the construction of hand pumps, home and school latrines, and developing training programs for returnees on constructing their own latrines from local materials. Road construction to the site began at the start of the month. At the Apada site, a slight increase in deaths has been reported, suspected to be due to malaria according to an investigation by the health cluster and government health authorities. The health cluster,

together with the Ministry of Health, is discussing increasing health services at the site, potentially including setting up another mobile health clinic.

In Renk in Upper Nile, an additional site for new returnees has been identified, as the main transit site at Mina reached full capacity several weeks ago. Food distributions that were due to take place this week have been delayed by heavy rains and poor road conditions. Some 44 metric tons of food will be delivered as soon as conditions allow. A barge in Malakal with 200 metric tons of food on board is also destined for Renk. Health partners have deployed extra staff to support ongoing programmes. Education partners have constructed four additional temporary learning spaces for returnees, which will accommodate 400 pupils. Currently, 2,571 pupils are benefiting from emergency education services. Twelve teachers are working in the safe spaces alongside other community volunteers.



Children in the temporary learning space at the Mina returnee site in Renk in Upper Nile State.

.Insenh Damina UNICEF

### **Governments of South Sudan and Sudan agree to give joint support for returnees**

President Salva Kiir of South Sudan and President Omar al-Bashir of Sudan, in a letter to the UN Security Council following their 8-9 October meeting in Khartoum, agreed to recognize the nine-month adjustment period to establish the status of South Sudanese in Sudan. Both sides agreed to treat South Sudanese in Sudan as displaced persons rather than refugees until the termination of the interim period in March 2012, and to facilitate their assistance and movement to South Sudan.

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