

# South Sudan Humanitarian Update

## May-June 2012

### HIGHLIGHTS AND PRIORITIES

- Partners responded to rising food insecurity with scaled-up aid. By mid-year, more than 1.6 million people had received food and livelihood support in South Sudan, while the assistance target for the year was doubled to 2.4 million people.
- Austerity measures linked to the shutdown of South Sudan's oil industry in January, contributed to increasing hardship for millions of citizens.
- Partners in South Sudan responded rapidly with emergency aid and onward transport for nearly 12,000 returnees from Kosti, Sudan, who reached Juba in a humanitarian airlift between 14 May and 6 June.

- Conditions improved for the return of people displaced from Abyei with the pullout of most unauthorized security forces from the contested area by the start of June.
- The Sudanese refugee population at sites in Upper Nile and Unity states swelled to nearly 170,000 people by the end of June, adding to demand for scarce water and prompting health concerns.
- Funding requirements were reviewed in May and June to address deteriorating humanitarian conditions. After the mid-year revision, the Consolidated Appeal of US\$1.15 billion for South Sudan was 45 per cent funded.

### FRAGILE STABILITY AND RISING NEEDS

The humanitarian situation in South Sudan was comparatively stable in May and June following weeks of border clashes and displacement. Humanitarian organizations continued to assist nearly 20,000 people displaced in March-April border fighting, while the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan returned to negotiations in Addis Ababa. At the same time, the rising influx of Sudanese refugees presented serious challenges for humanitarian partners, including heightened concerns about water supply, disease risks and malnutrition in Upper Nile and Unity states.

#### Multiple emergencies ongoing

At the end of June, the humanitarian community in South Sudan was assisting nearly 20,000 people displaced in recent border violence; an estimated 110,000 displaced from Abyei last year; and over 200,000 refugees, mainly from Sudan. Some 1.6 million people received food and livelihood assistance during the first half of the year, amid rising concerns about food insecurity. In addition, partners continued to assist South Sudanese returnees, including nearly 12,000 who arrived from 14 May to 6 June from Sudan's Kosti in a rapid airlift operation coordinated with the authorities in both countries.

Humanitarian organizations in South Sudan recorded 177 conflict incidents with humanitarian consequences from the start of 2012 until the end of June, with 37 of these incidents occurring in May and June. Of the 165,000 people newly displaced in South Sudan

from the start of the year, some 22,000 were displaced in the reporting period. Partners noted a slowdown toward the end of the period, with no significant displacement occurring in late June, according to humanitarian assessment teams and local authorities. At the end of June, relief organizations were engaged in over 30 humanitarian operations, covering 51 out of 79 counties in the country, including assistance to refugees, displaced people, food and nutrition assistance.

#### Talks on border proceed slowly

Following a unanimous resolution by the UN Security Council on 2 May, the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan returned to negotiations at the end of the month to resolve outstanding Comprehensive Peace Agreement issues, including border demarcation, the status of Abyei, and how to divide oil revenues. The talks, mediated by the African Union (AU) in Addis Ababa, reached an impasse in early June amid disagreements over a temporary border. The process resumed on 19 June and was to continue in July, although progress was elusive. In mid-June, the Security Council urged the two sides to keep on schedule with the AU peace roadmap.

#### REFUGEES

# 170,000

in South Sudan from Sudan

#### SOUTH SUDANESE

# 4.7 million

at risk of food insecurity

## Austerity adds to hardship

Five months without oil revenue has put a strain on state finances and the economy, with potentially severe humanitarian impact. Since the Government of South Sudan shut down exports via Sudan in January, growing shortages of food and fuel, as well as inflation in May and June, have added to the hardships of millions of already vulnerable South Sudanese. A new austerity budget unveiled in mid-June for the 2012/13 fiscal year, starting 1 July, highlighted the government's diminishing capacity, which could further add to the need for humanitarian assistance.



Food distribution by aid agencies in Northern Bahr el Ghazal (WFP)

Oil previously accounted for 98 per cent of the government budget. Given the country's reliance on imported goods, the loss of hard currency earnings has also led to price rises for basic goods in local markets. With annual inflation reaching 80 per cent by May, the average South Sudanese family faced nearly a doubling of its costs over the past year, according to Kosti Manibe Ngai, Minister of Finance and Economic Planning. "Rapid inflation hits the poorest citizens, those who have limited or no savings to draw on, the hardest," he said.

Austerity measures and soaring food and fuel prices were among the factors contributing to rising food insecurity in South Sudan this year, according to food security partners. Poor harvests, agricultural disruptions, border tensions, the closure of the border for trade, and mass displacement of people have also contributed to rising hunger and malnutrition across the country.

An estimated 4.7 million people – more than half the population – were at risk of food insecurity, with at least 1 million of those suffering from severe food insecurity. As of mid-year, more than 1.6 million people had been assisted with food and livelihood support, considerably exceeding the earlier planning figure of 1.2 million for the year.

## Supplies pre-positioned for rainy season

With the onset of the rainy season in much of the country, access to people in need diminished considerably by the end of June. Depending on varying local conditions, heavy rains limit road access to up to 60 per cent of South Sudan between May and November. Pre-positioning permits steady provision of supplies and timely assistance for the peak of the hunger period, as well as being less costly and more effective than relying on air transport. By the end of June, humanitarian organizations had nearly completed extensive pre-positioning efforts at multiple hubs around the country, to ensure ongoing response capacity against food insecurity, malnutrition and other dangers. Pre-positioned

supplies included food, nutritional supplements, emergency educational materials, household goods, emergency shelter, emergency medical kits, seeds, tools, and water, sanitation and hygiene equipment.

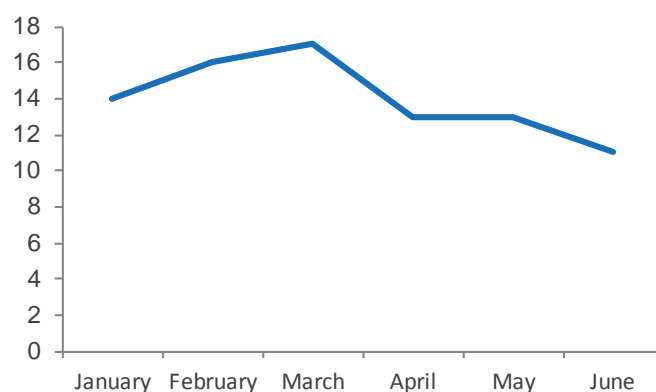
Normal to above average rain forecasts for the months ahead bode relatively well for crop cultivation and livestock grazing. Still, flooding and infrastructure damage could spoil the harvest and displace people. Some 78 per cent of South Sudanese depend on farming for their livelihood, according to the South Sudan Centre for Census, Statistics and Evaluation, making rainfall variations a critical aspect of the food security situation.

## HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

The Government of South Sudan achieved increasing success in protecting humanitarian operations from interference by soldiers or local officials. Better coordination has also led to gradual progress in reducing the problem of the military occupation of schools.

South Sudanese authorities continued making progress in reducing the number of schools occupied by military forces, with five schools vacated in four states during May and June. However, with three other schools becoming newly occupied during the period, the total number of schools occupied only decreased from 13 to 11 by the end of June, as humanitarian partners kept up their advocacy for total military withdrawal from schools. Coordination has improved between the South Sudanese military, governmental authorities and humanitarian partners, allowing gradual progress on this key issue.

### Total number of schools occupied by the South Sudan army at end of each month



In other areas, positive efforts by the Government of South Sudan to reduce interference in humanitarian operations continued. For example, the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) intervened successfully in several incidents in the Greater Bahr el Ghazal region when the South Sudanese army (SPLA) or local government authorities attempted to take over humanitarian assets for their own use. In one case, soldiers commandeered an agency vehicle for transport, and in another attempted to use an agency tractor intended for agricultural assistance.

Intervention by the authorities also resulted in the removal of most of the illegal road toll points in Warrap State, which improved the speed and reach of humanitarian food deliveries.

Unfortunately, these gains were offset by an increase in bureaucratic impediments to humanitarian work, most notably difficulty obtaining visas and work permits for international staff of NGOs, while national staff members are increasingly having their nationality questioned. At least 18 incidents occurred in which South Sudan's military or other state actors commandeered relief assets, occupied humanitarian premises, physically assaulted staff, or restricted the ability of humanitarians to reach populations in need quickly and safely in May and June, bringing the total for the year to 44. In addition, humanitarian agencies were increasingly targets of criminal activity, particularly in urban areas.

### Rains impede access

The rainy season has also hampered humanitarian access across the country by making many roads impassable. This has particularly added to the challenges of the humanitarian response operation for Sudanese refugees near the northern border. The UN refugee agency, UNHCR, carried out a series of relief flights to Upper Nile State in late June, beefing up stocks of family tents and household items. Similar access problems affected refugee sites in Unity State. Yida, hosting about 59,000 people at the end of June, was practically cut-off as the only road to the refugee settlement was closed due to heavy rain.

## RETURNS TO ABYEI

Sudanese and South Sudanese security forces withdrew from the contested Abyei area by June, apart from a small number of Sudan Oil Police reported to still be guarding the Diffra oil fields. The improved security situation saw the start of limited returns of the Dinka Ngok community to Abyei.

An estimated 110,000 individuals were displaced from their homes in May 2011 during of the takeover of the Abyei area by the Sudan Armed Forces. Within days of the outbreak of fighting, they fled on foot southwards in search of safety, taking only the few possessions they could carry. With their homes completely razed, most have remained displaced and reliant on humanitarian assistance in South Sudan.

Improvements in the security situation, however, prompted increasing numbers of the people displaced from Abyei to consider returning, particularly with the withdrawal of most unauthorized forces in May. By the end of June, about 9,700 people were living in villages north of the River Kiir/Bahr el Arab, compared to 6,000 two months before and about 2,000 at the end of 2011, according to the UN peacekeeping force, UNISFA. Humanitarian partners noted a clear acceleration of Abyei returns in the second half of June.

Yet the returns remained tentative, with some family members going ahead of others to be sure conditions were right. People displaced in the nearby Agok area said they were willing to move their families back to Abyei but were faced with a number of challenges, including a lack of shelter in the devastated area, as well as farming and schooling commitments in areas where they were temporarily residing.

### Ensuring returns are voluntary

The humanitarian community is preparing for increasing returns to Abyei, should the people displaced decide to make the journey home. UN agencies in Khartoum and Juba, along with humanitarian partners, are scaling up their assistance capacity and their presence in Abyei town, expecting that up to 30,000 people could return by September. Tracking and monitoring teams have been deployed to Abyei to ensure returns are voluntary. Humanitarian aid will be provided wherever people decide to settle.

Numerous challenges remain. Heavy rains from July until October will make roads outside Abyei town virtually impassable. Landmines, although cleared from the town and main roads, remain a threat in the rest of the Abyei area. Bureaucratic impediments may also limit NGO and UN staff movements, hampering relief efforts. The lack of a civilian Abyei administration also remains a hindrance. The Abyei Joint Oversight Committee (AJOC), composed of members from the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan, held its fourth meeting on 7 June in Addis Ababa, initiating renewed dialogue on joint policing, humanitarian cooperation and a joint administration for the contested area after the March-April border crisis.

Alorbeny Ajak and a neighbour stand in front of her newly rebuilt home in Abyei town

### A NEW BEGINNING

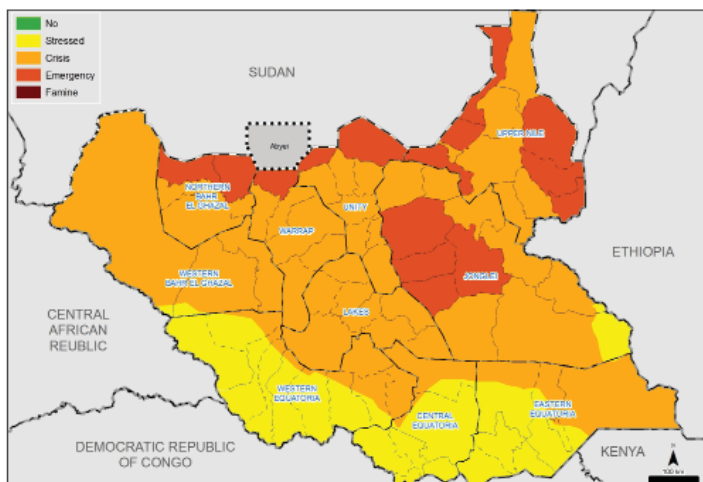
Alorbeny Ajak, a Dinka Ngok mother of seven, was displaced from Abyei in May 2011 as fighting raged in her home town. She fled with her family 45 kilometers south to Agok, where she lived in temporary shelter for 12 months, surviving on humanitarian aid. With the withdrawal of non-UN armed forces from Abyei town, Alorbeny ventured back in June to investigate what remained of her home. Her tukul (hut) was burnt down and everything she owned charred and destroyed. Undeterred, she began to rebuild. To earn money, Alorbeny also began to rebuild the tukuls of neighbours who were still staying in Agok. The local authorities have provided her with plastic sheeting to protect her new home from the heavy rains that have just begun. As she builds, she talks about her family in Agok: "My husband is with the children, as they are attending school there. They will all return when the schools reopen in Abyei."

The humanitarian community is finalizing a response plan, including education support, along with food, shelter, health, water and other emergency relief for people returning home.



## FOOD SECURITY RESPONSE

Food insecurity continued rising in May and June, as economic austerity and the affects of border closures added to the expected shortages in South Sudan's lean season, when food stocks from the previous harvest start running out. By the end of May, northern border areas and parts of Jonglei State were declared Phase 4 emergency areas on the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) scale. In response, food security partners scaled up food assistance to reach 2.4 million people by year-end.



Food security phases in South Sudan (Source: FSL Cluster/CFSAM)

The sharp rise in hunger has made 2012 South Sudan's worst year for food security since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005. The number of people requiring food assistance in the country has approximately doubled, prompting partners to scale up aid well above the earlier target of reaching 1.2 million people. About 12 per cent of South Sudanese are severely food insecure, while 36 per cent are moderately food insecure, according to food security and livelihoods partners.

Erratic rains, insecurity, border closures, macro-economic shocks and inflation because of the loss of oil revenues have all contributed to rising hunger. Returns from Sudan and accelerated refugee inflows have also put pressure on local food supplies in some areas. With South Sudan heavily reliant on imported food, price rises in local markets are hitting households hard.

The increase of the border areas of the country to Phase 4 on the IPC scale underlines their heightened vulnerability, particularly following the tightening of trade restrictions since military clashes along the border in March and April. Phase 4 indicates extreme food consumption gaps or critical loss of livelihoods expected to produce such gaps. The border remained closed for trade as of the end of June.

Similarly, inter-communal fighting in South Sudan's largest state, Jonglei, disrupted agriculture and herding earlier in the year, resulting in prolonged vulnerability and heightening food security fears.

### Hunger risk heightened in border zone

Northern border states, which normally rely on trade with Sudan for basic food items, have witnessed the greatest shortages and sharpest inflation, with price increases of 200-300 per cent for fuel and many basic food commodities, such as sorghum, in recent months. The escalation of political tensions between South Sudan and Sudan, and the sealing of the border between the two countries since clashes in March and April, has hampered the

flow of food and other commercial supplies from Sudan to South Sudan's Unity, Northern and Western Bahr El Ghazal, Warrap and Upper Nile states. Trade blockages have reduced the food and essential supplies available to many households, putting over 917,000 people who were already moderately food insecure at risk of slipping into severe food insecurity, according to food security and livelihoods partners.

### Food aid scaled up to meet needs

Food security partners scaled up massively and quickly in May and June, pre-positioning 50,000 metric tons of emergency food in hubs across the country and working to deliver additional food to the northern border states. From the start of the year until early June, some 1.6 million individuals were supported through food security and livelihoods aid in South Sudan, including deliveries of food, agricultural tools, livestock and fisheries production assistance, urban livelihoods support and veterinary services.

### Acute malnutrition reaches critical levels

High rates of malnutrition are linked to food insecurity and other factors, with acute malnutrition peaking during the pre-harvest season and hunger gap period between April and June.

Post-harvest monitoring in four states indicated high levels of malnutrition, with global acute malnutrition (GAM) averaging 14.7 per cent and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) 3.2 per cent in assessed areas. Malnutrition increased since last year in six of the nine states surveyed and could affect about 600,000 children in South Sudan in 2012, according to nutrition partners.

Rapid assessments by nutrition partners in 2011 confirmed that areas in Jonglei, Upper Nile, Unity, Eastern Equatoria, Warrap and Northern Bahr el Ghazal states were likely to suffer from malnutrition levels above the World Health Organization emergency threshold of 15 per cent global acute malnutrition (GAM).

The main factors contributing to acute malnutrition in South Sudan are food insecurity, disease, lack of access to primary health care, lack of clean water and sanitation, seasonality and poor infant feeding practices.

## REFUGEE INFLUX CONTINUES

More than 50,000 refugees entered Upper Nile and Unity states from Sudan's Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan in May and June, increasing the total number of Sudanese refugees to nearly 170,000, with more still arriving.

New arrivals increasingly tended to be exhausted and malnourished. They cited hunger and fighting as the reasons they fled their homes on foot, walking for weeks. Some refugees said they ate leaves and wild roots, and drank water from open sources en route. On arrival, refugees received high-energy biscuits and a food ration for at least two weeks, followed by a ration card for monthly food rations. Medical and registration procedures were streamlined to ensure a swift and systematic process on entry.

### Water still scarce in Upper Nile State

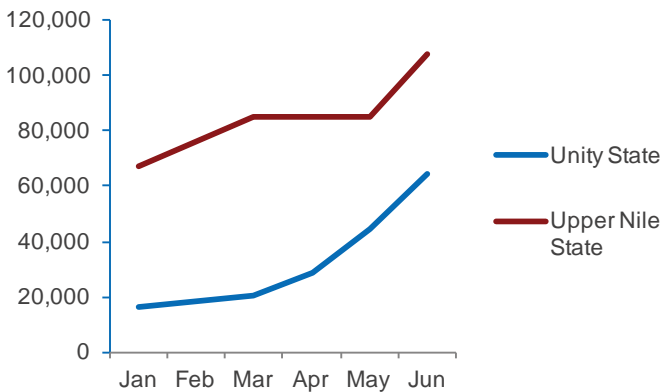
Accelerating refugee arrivals put a heavy strain on limited water resources in the border region and around the main refugee sites. Water was already in short supply at Jammam, in Upper

Nile State. Humanitarian partners managed to provide 7 litres of clean water per person per day in Jammam – enough for survival but well below the normal standard for water supply. Aid workers struggled to maintain minimal levels of drinking water through temporary solutions, such as tanker trucks. Water supply was also a severe challenge at the transitory sites where new arrivals gathered upon crossing the border. In June, water ran out at Hofra, forcing humanitarian organizations to relocate some 35,000 people on short notice to K-18, another transitory site, until it was possible to move them to the Yusuf Batil site. Successful drilling for underground water at Yusuf Batil in late June permitted the relocation of the refugees from K-18. However, moving this group meant delaying plans to decongest Jammam to relieve pressure on scarce water resources there. Partners were in negotiations with local authorities to identify a new site for 15,000 people from Jammam and up to 20,000 new arrivals.

**Aid workers warn of disease risk in Yida**

Sanitary and hygiene conditions at the Yida refugee site in Unity State worsened severely in late June because of rapid growth of the population at the settlement, which doubled in the two-month reporting period. Efforts to persuade refugees to move to more secure sites farther from the border continued. Aid agencies stepped up services in Yida, while continuing advocacy to persuade people to move to Pariang and Nyeel.

**Number of Sudanese refugees in South Sudan (Jan-June 2012)**



(Source: UNHCR. Upper Nile figures for March/April are combined figures for both months and do not infer there were no new arrivals in April. Figures are estimated as verification of refugees is yet to be completed.)

**KOSTI RETURN OPERATION**

Coordination ensured the smooth return of nearly 12,000 returnees previously stranded in Kosti, Sudan. 30,000 returnees reached final destinations in South Sudan in May and June. Since the end of October 2010, when the organized returns programme began, over 405,000 returnees have arrived at final destinations, while some 19,000 returnees remain in transit in Renk, in Upper Nile.

From 14 May to 6 June, 11,813 returnees were airlifted from Khartoum to Juba on 79 flights. This group had been waiting at Sudan’s Kosti port for transport to South Sudan, with many stranded for up to a year. The airlift was organized in response to the group’s growing vulnerability, after Sudanese authorities issued a deadline of 5 May for all of the 12,000 returnees in Kosti to depart. Humanitarian partners were able to negotiate plans for the airlift, which ensured a safer and more organized returns process. The operation proceeded smoothly, with strong cooperation between government and humanitarian partners. On arrival in Juba,



South Sudanese arrive from Kosti to Juba, via Khartoum (IOM)

the returnees were temporarily accommodated at a UNHCR way station and on the grounds of the new National Teacher Training Institute. At these sites, humanitarian partners provided health services, water, sanitation, shelter and food. Over 80 per cent of the returnees from Kosti were returning to the Juba area, and substantial numbers left the transit site spontaneously within a few days of arriving, so that numbers at the site never exceeded 7,000 people at any one time. For the remainder, when onward transport was ready, those requiring it were brought to their final destinations, mostly in Eastern and Western Equatoria states. By 1 July, fewer than 1,500 returnees from the Kosti airlift operation remained at the transit site.

**Family members follow with luggage**

While most of the Kosti returnees went by air, the Government of South Sudan’s RRC transported the luggage of the airlifted returnees by road from Kosti to Renk, usually accompanied by one member of the family. The first of these family members arrived on 14 May and the last at the end of June, when the Kosti way station was closed down. Unfortunately, this luggage movement worsened the bottleneck of returnees in Renk, which already hosted over 17,000 returnees in transit at the time. Renk, the most northerly transit stop in South Sudan, allows easy access from Khartoum but poor access to points beyond because of fuel shortages, lack of commercial transporters and poor transport infrastructure, which leaves the road south impassable during the rainy season.

**ONWARD TRANSPORT FROM RENK**

Efforts to decongest Renk increased during May and June. IOM moved over 4,000 returnees by barge or road during the two months. Most of the returnees transported by road were taken to Malakal, where many were further transported by air to their final destinations. Over 1,400 returnees went from Malakal to Aweil, Kwajok, Rumbek and Juba on 36 flights. However, spontaneous returnees-in-transit continued to arrive in Renk at a faster rate than returnees are departing, so many returnees remain waiting for transport. Many others express uncertainty about their desire to move further, preferring to remain in Renk, where they are already established and where services are better than in many parts of South Sudan. These groups total some 19,000 people, for whom humanitarian support continues despite increased aid costs in recent months. Partners estimate cost increases ranging from 20 per cent to 200 per cent for operations since January. In addition, worries about insecurity in Renk were highlighted starkly on 15 May when the Mina transit site at the port came under fire during a rebel militia attack.

## CLUSTER FOCUS

Each cluster forms part of the humanitarian community's wide-ranging, coordinated response capability. In this issue of Humanitarian Update, the activities of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Cluster are highlighted. The WASH Cluster is led by UNICEF and Medair.



The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Cluster provided emergency assistance in May and June to vulnerable communities throughout South Sudan, including rising numbers of refugees from Sudan and people displaced by recent border fighting.

WASH partners provided clean water and improved sanitation to increased numbers of refugees in Upper Nile and Unity states, totalling nearly 170,000 people by the end of June. Over 18,000 South Sudanese returnees in Renk, Upper Nile State, also benefitted from emergency WASH services.

### In June alone, the WASH Cluster helped to improve the humanitarian situation in Renk, by:

- Continuous daily supply of 60,000 litres for about 4,600 returnees at the Mina transit site
- Construction of 100 pit latrines and 80 bathing shelters, and the installation of 10 handwashing facilities at Mina
- Conduct of hygiene promotion with 22 volunteers within the site; in addition, all returnees at Mina received over 6,600 bars of soap, enough to last for the next two months
- Distribution of water purification chemicals to 2,500 returnees by barge in transit to Juba
- Provision of alum for purification of the urban water supply, ensuring continued supply of piped water to a host community of about 40,000 people
- Distribution of buckets and handwashing facilities to 11 primary schools to promote hygiene practices among 5,000 school children and the host community

People displaced in March-April border clashes and also in rebel militia incidents, as well as by the inter-communal conflict in Jonglei State earlier in the year, remain in critical need of emergency WASH services. Efforts continue to extend emergency services to people displaced in the most remote and inaccessible locations, such as in Jonglei's Pigi and Fangak areas.

Prior to WASH activities, none of the sites for people displaced in South Sudan since the beginning of 2012 had an adequate supply of clean water. The number of people needing emergency water services has increased from 2.1 million to 2.6 million (between October 2011 and June 2012) with the inclusion of refugees and affected host communities. Rising food insecurity will also increase the need among acutely vulnerable communities for basic WASH services, as an undernourished population is even more susceptible to water-borne diseases, such as acute watery diarrhea and cholera.

### Funding constraints

The Government of South Sudan's involvement in the WASH sector is expected to decrease because of austerity measures, leaving no capacity to either deliver WASH services or respond to WASH emergencies in the months ahead. The humanitarian community's ability to fill the gap is also constrained. The WASH Cluster's



Women collecting water at a borehole in Upper Nile State(WFP)

emergency activities in South Sudan are currently only 16 per cent funded, based on planned 2012 programmes. Should further funding not be received, partners will be unable to reach some 300,000 returnees, displaced people and other affected people with crucial WASH supplies, while up to 800,000 children, women and men could be deprived of lifesaving clean water in the second half of 2012.

### Revised strategy

Partners will continue with emergency response in critical northern border states, although sufficient funding is still lacking. Programming capacity will be decreased in states without acute current emergencies, especially in the Equatoria and Lakes states, eliminating aid to communities affected by guinea worm.

Given the current constraints, the WASH Cluster has focused on strengthening system-wide preparedness and technical capacity. Acutely vulnerable communities will continue to receive attention, while appropriate hygiene promotion activities are pursued to break disease transmission routes.

In Malakal, partners completed a one-month disease prevention hygiene promotion campaign aimed at strengthening community preparedness and mitigation of potential disease outbreaks in the rainy season. This activity reached close to 29,000 people in Malakal town.

In Renk, hygiene promotion also continued, reaching 7,000 of the most vulnerable returnees to prevent water-borne diseases from breaking out at the Payeur and Mina transit sites.

Separate sanitation and hygiene strategies will be designed to address the needs of women and men, boys and girls. Active participation of women on water committees will be ensured so that the needs and rights of women are taken into account. The approach will also be sensitive to community dynamics, particularly in rural areas where conflict related to competition for water resources can be mitigated through WASH provision.

#### RETURNEES IN RENK

18,000

benefitted from emergency WASH services

#### REFUGEES

170,000

received WASH assistance in Unity and Upper Nile states

## HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

Pooled funding mechanisms, which consist of the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) and Central Emergency Response Fund, continue to prove their value in supporting flexible, rapid and effective humanitarian response capacity in South Sudan.

The CHF Reserve allows for the rapid and flexible allocation of funds for unforeseen needs and circumstances. This mechanism – which is separate from the CHF Standard Allocation – provides a funding lifeline to high-priority interventions in support of projects in South Sudan that are at risk of being suspended because of a lack of financing.

### Flexible funding structure keeps health services operating

In May, financing from the CHF was extended to projects by three national NGOs working in the health sector. The projects support 15 primary healthcare centres, which are providing basic packages of health support and emergency assistance to 120,000 people in Jonglei, Unity and Warrap states.

Given the limited capacity of national and state governments to provide basic health support, the humanitarian community has opted to concentrate on core health activities, such as treating communicable diseases and training health workers.

The majority of health services in South Sudan are delivered by NGOs. Continuing health service provision is vital in areas of instability, and frequently saves the lives of highly vulnerable people, such as children and pregnant women.

The three organizations – like other national NGOs in the health sector – received the greatest share of their financial support in past years from faith-based and South Sudanese diaspora groups. However, this has proved insufficient in the current year. At the same time, budget support to the health sector from the Government of South Sudan remains inadequate, while international donors are shifting towards longer-term funding models set to begin in 2013. The three NGOs, therefore, faced a sudden disruption of their activities unless other funding became available in 2012.

The CHF provided timely and flexible funding to ensure continued health service provision during the transition period, especially in areas of instability with highly vulnerable populations. For example, one national NGO will provide refresher health training to 16 traditional birth attendants in Mayendit County, Unity State, after receiving funding from the CHF. The training aims to improve the quality of medical care available to community members in Mayendit.

The three national NGOs received US\$801,000 in funds, with the flexible structure of the Common Humanitarian Fund ensuring that the health facilities continued to be kept open, saving lives.

### CHF Reserve maintains air access to hard-to-reach areas

The CHF Reserve has been instrumental in maintaining the services of the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) aeroplane, which is used by relief agencies to reach difficult-to-reach areas. With medical facilities lacking in remote areas, the plane is used to carry out medical evacuations of humanitarian staff in life-threatening situations. The plane also provides safe, efficient and reliable support to aid organizations, through aerial security assessments as well as the movement of humanitarian personnel on special request.

Poor transport infrastructure, combined with the impact of seasonal rainfall, makes South Sudan an extremely challenging context for the delivery of humanitarian relief. Even in peaceful circumstances, over half of the country becomes inaccessible at the height of the rainy season, with many areas remaining unreachable for between five and seven months of the year. In addition, aid workers face the threat of rebel militia groups, armed bandits and landmines along some roads. In dangerous areas, strict security precautions tie down extra resources and prolong travel time.

In June, UNDSS applied for CHF Reserve funds to support its services to assist humanitarian operations, which could not otherwise continue to be provided. The Reserve stepped in with six months of funding, giving UNDSS time to seek longer term financing, without a disruption of vital humanitarian air support.

## MID-YEAR CAP REVIEW ADDRESSES GROWING NEEDS

Humanitarian partners came together in May and June to update their main planning document, the Consolidated Appeal for South Sudan, to address sharply increased humanitarian needs in the country. The review process – carried out by 116 organizations, including government humanitarian institutions, non-governmental organizations, UN agencies and the donor community – highlighted a serious deterioration in the situation since late 2011, when the CAP 2012 was developed. Partners met for a mid-year review workshop on 15 May, followed by detailed revision of the 2012 CAP until late June. The main changes have been in relation to the increase of people in need of food aid and the rising influx of Sudanese refugees. In the mid-year review, the planning figure for food assistance was doubled, from 1.2 million to 2.4 million individuals by year-end.

Continued conflict and rising food insecurity in Sudan's Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states, meanwhile, accelerated the influx of refugees into South Sudan. Late last year, the number of refugees in South Sudan was expected to reach 80,000 in 2012; however, the expectation now is that at least 265,000 refugees will need assistance this year.

Simultaneously, austerity measures resulting from the Government of South Sudan's shutdown of oil production increased the hardships for an already vulnerable population. Persisting austerity will almost certainly lead to worsening food security, increased poverty, higher child mortality and declining school attendance.

Humanitarian partners, therefore, amended their planned programming to address people's increasing needs. The revised 2012 Consolidated Appeal for South Sudan seeks US\$1.15 billion for 289 projects to address urgent humanitarian needs, up from \$763 million in the original CAP 2012. As of June 30, the South Sudan CAP is funded at 45 per cent of the revised needs.

## STATE PROFILE: NORTHERN BAHR EL GHAZAL

Northern Bahr el Ghazal State was among the most affected parts of South Sudan in humanitarian terms following March-April clashes along the border with Sudan. Close to 10,000 people were displaced from border areas in the state's Aweil North and Aweil East counties during six weeks of fighting up to the end of April.

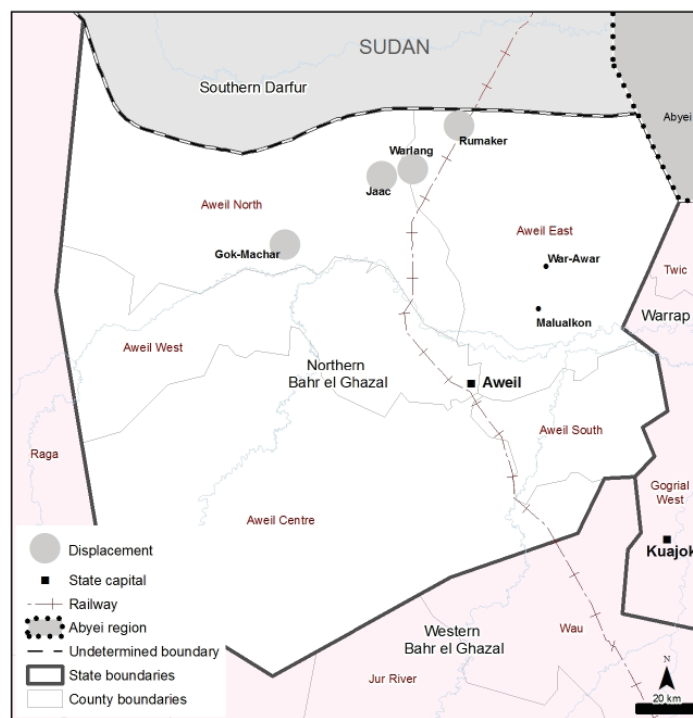
As inter-agency assessment missions to Gokmachar, Jaac, Warlang and Rumaker showed that most of the people displaced arrived at the sites without any food or household utilities, and were additionally vulnerable because of living in the open. Elderly people at the sites were looking after minors, some of them separated from their families, and many families reported members missing.

Adding to the challenges, the sites for displaced in Northern Bahr el Ghazal are among the least accessible areas in South Sudan, with an extremely limited road network and high sensitivities about movement near the volatile border. The north-south railway line through the state capital, Aweil, reaches only a small section of the approximately 33,500 square kilometer state. Access has been especially restricted for Rumaker and Warlang due to the close proximity of these locations to recent fighting. Unlike Gokmachar and Jaac, the people displaced in Rumaker are settled next to heavily militarized zones with tight restrictions on movement. Supplies of safe drinking water are limited, as are access to medical support and the levels of drug stocks.

### Agencies in crisis response mode

The dire situation of the nearly 10,000 people displaced warranted multi-cluster humanitarian assistance, particularly with food, drinking water, emergency shelter, household items, and sanitation facilities. Spurred by the sharp deterioration seen in April, South Sudan's Humanitarian Country Team activated a full-fledged crisis response mode in Northern Bahr el Ghazal in cooperation with state-level and local authorities, as well as humanitarian partners in the affected areas.

The displaced people received food, hygiene kits, and household items including mosquito nets, blankets and soap. Clean water was also provided to over 10,000 people. In addition, students among the displaced people received emergency education support, with assistance including two temporary learning spaces, several school-in-a-box kits, recreation kits and blackboards. The response continued by way of the state-level cluster system throughout May and June.



Sites hosting displaced communities in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State

### Agriculture affected by border clashes

Agricultural projects in the state were badly hit, with the state sorghum harvest declining 34 per cent and Aweil Rice Scheme production down 20 per cent compared to last year. Impoverished households were forced to sell off assets for food – a development not seen in Northern Bahr el Ghazal since the Sudanese civil war, which ended in 2005. Up to 40 per cent of state residents are thought to have been directly affected by recent military actions along the border. Tensions have curtailed the flow of trade, including food supplies. Rising prices in the local markets, in turn, have worsened the food-insecurity of many households. The food assistance caseload could increase by over 50 per cent during the third quarter of the year, food security partners warned.

South Sudan's poorest state, Northern Bahr el Ghazal was already vulnerable to food shortages, having received the second highest number of returnees in all 10 states, with more returns expected. The state, with a population of about 720,000, also hosts over 5,000 people displaced from Abyei last year. Northern Bahr el Ghazal remains vulnerable to conflict, particularly if current negotiations about the border with Sudan fail. The coming months are normally associated with seasonal floods and disease outbreaks.

#### Number of people killed in 2012

State	Killed	%
Jonglei	996	77%
Unity	123	10%
Upper Nile	19	2%
Other states	147	12%

#### Conflict incidents in 2012

State	Incidents	%
Jonglei	79	45%
Unity	59	33%
Upper Nile	21	12%
Other states	18	10%

#### Displaced population in 2012

State	Incidents	%
Jonglei	111,576	68%
Unity	30,224	18%
Upper Nile	10,150	6%
Other states	12,381	8%

**Contact Information:** The South Sudan Humanitarian Update has been prepared by OCHA South Sudan in collaboration with humanitarian partners. Please contact [ochasouthsudan@un.org](mailto:ochasouthsudan@un.org) with comments, feedback or inputs to the next issue.

**Disclaimer:** Figures on maps and charts are reported by authorities and/or assessment teams unless otherwise indicated.