

23-29 July 2012

HIGHLIGHTS

- Relief agencies remain concerned about acute diarrhoea and malnutrition in settlements hosting Sudanese refugees
- A special US\$10 million allocation from the Common Humanitarian Fund reserve will be disbursed to support the emergency response operation to Sudanese refugees in South Sudan
- Prices of sorghum and maize, the main food staples of South Sudan, remain at record high levels

2012 FIGURES

Conflict incidents	193
Number of people newly displaced	164,331

Source: OCHA based on reports from local authorities and assessment teams. Figures as of 29 July 2012.

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%



Sudanese refugees take shelter from heavy rains in Yusuf Batil settlement in Upper Nile State (Jake Dinneen/UNHCR)

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Situation overview

Humanitarian organizations in South Sudan continued to respond to close to 167,000 Sudanese refugees in Upper Nile and Unity states, where acute diarrhoea and malnutrition continue to cause concern. Aid agencies also responded to over 10,000 people displaced by conflict in Greater Bahr el Ghazal, including 3,600 people in Western Bahr el Ghazal's Firka. Relief is ongoing to 110,000 people who were displaced from Abyei, of whom only 10,000 are estimated to have returned home. On the food security front, the price of cereals produced in South Sudan has increased in markets across the country, according to the Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture, pushing people further towards food insecurity.

High-level talks on outstanding Comprehensive Peace Agreement issues continued in Ethiopian's capital between South Sudan and Sudan. The 2 August UN Security Council deadline looms with no resolutions reportedly reached between the two states.

Humanitarian challenges, needs and response

Relief agencies reach conflict-displaced people in Western Bahr el Ghazal

An inter-agency humanitarian assessment team reached some 3,600 conflict-affected people north of Raja in Firka, Western Bahr el Ghazal State on 25 July. The people were displaced by an aerial bombardment in May. The assessment identified food, emergency shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene support as the key humanitarian needs of those displaced. While initial lifesaving items including nutrition supplements, water purifying tablets and medical supplies were delivered during the team's visit, organizations are mobilizing resources to further respond following the needs identified by the assessment. Humanitarian access has been restricted to Firka because of difficulties obtaining security clearance for UN and associated staff, and also poor road conditions due to heavy rains. Combining the visit with a UN Security assessment has enabled access.



People displaced carrying lifesaving supplies delivered by aid agencies (UNOCHA)

Motorbikes and bicycles used to deliver aid to Northern Bahr el Ghazal

Humanitarian organizations have been using non-conventional means of delivering aid to some 7,000 conflict-displaced people in Jaac, Warlang and Rumaker in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State. Motorbikes and bicycles are being used to carry humanitarian assistance to people in need, as heavy rains have made conditions impassable for light and heavy

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)

South Sudan's Ministry of Health is working closely with state surveillance officers and health teams across the country to enhance surveillance, to prevent an outbreak of Ebola disease

vehicles. Over 1,000 school exercise books were delivered to Jaac during the week, while medical supplies were carried to Jaac and Warlang. Two months worth of food was distributed in Jaac by 23 July. In the case of food supplies, the people displaced were asked to move a short distance to receive the food rations, to an area accessible by aid workers. Humanitarian organizations are concerned about disease outbreaks due to the presence of stagnant water in several settlements hosting displaced communities. Water, sanitation and hygiene partners continue to monitor the situation.

Humanitarian assistance continues in Abyei and the Agok area

Humanitarian organizations continue to deliver relief to people displaced from Abyei in the Agok area, Warrap State and other locations in South Sudan, as well as those who have returned to Abyei. According to the UN peacekeeping mission (UNISFA), some 10,000 people have now returned to Abyei.

Food security partners completed food distribution for July to Abyei area and Agok, reaching over 70,000 people – both people displaced and returnees. Household items also continued to be delivered to those in need. Over 7,800 kits containing mosquito nets, sleeping mats, kitchen appliances and blankets were delivered to people in Agok and Abyei. Over 660 children were involved in psychosocial activities in seven child-friendly spaces in Agok during the week. So far, over 8,000 children have benefited from the child-friendly activities in Agok and Abyei.

No movements of Misseriya nomads were reported by the UN peacekeeping mission over the past few weeks, indicating that the reverse migration to northwards into Sudan has possibly been completed. The sixth meeting of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee is scheduled to take place on 10 August in Abyei.

Sorghum and maize prices at record levels across country

Since mid-2011, the price of domestically produced cereals has increased in most markets, reaching record prices in June/July 2012, according to the Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture (GIEWS). Price increases have pushed people further towards food insecurity and strained already stretched household coping mechanisms. Recent field visits by the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster indicate that continued price increases are due to high transport costs linked to burgeoning fuel prices, and increased import bills due to the weakening South Sudanese Pound (SSP). Transport costs could increase further by as much as 10 per cent due to bad conditions as the rainy season progresses, according to the Cluster.

In July, both sorghum and maize were traded in Juba retail markets at a record price of about SSP 5/kg, with an increase of between 180 and 220 per cent year-on-year. However, in main retail markets in the north of the country sorghum was 18-24 per cent more expensive than in Juba, with a peak of 47 per cent more in Wau in Western Bahr el Ghazal State, according to GIEWS.

Health partners step up preparedness to prevent Ebola outbreak

Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever preparedness plans are being strengthened across South Sudan to prevent the occurrence of the disease, following an outbreak in neighbouring Uganda. Since July, 36 cases and 14 deaths from Ebola have been recorded in Uganda, according to the state's Ministry of Health. South Sudan's Ministry of Health is working closely with state surveillance officers and health teams across the country to enhance surveillance, especially in the Ugandan border states of Greater Equatoria. All states are on high alert for suspected cases, and heightened surveillance at Juba airport is being conducted. A national taskforce is being re-activated.

Ebola is highly infectious and is often fatal in humans. Although the disease spreads quickly from person to person through direct physical contact through bodily fluids, and can kill in a short time, it is preventable. Symptoms include fever, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, headaches, measles-like rash, red eyes, and sometimes bleeding from body openings. People are advised to report any suspected cases to the nearest health unit and county health authorities.

Refugee updates

REFUGEES

Numbers in Upper Nile

Doro	41,717
Jamman	28,000
Yusuf Batil	34,099
Gendrassa	2,850
Total	106,666

Numbers in Unity

Yida	58,326
Pariang	1,053
Nyeel	844
Total	60,223

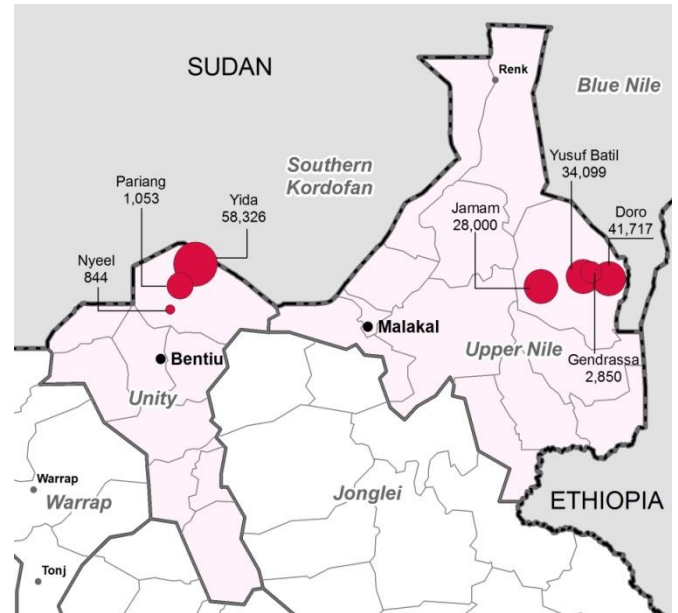
Source: UNHCR, figures as of 29 July 2012.

In Upper Nile, the main causes of morbidity among refugees continue to be watery diarrhea, upper tract respiratory infections and malnutrition

Some 1,000 returnees traveling from Juba to the Greater Bahr el Ghazal region, Lakes and Unity states were assisted with transport during the week

Tackling health issues priority in Upper Nile and Unity refugee sites

Acute diarrhea and malnutrition remain key concerns of aid agencies responding to some 167,000 Sudanese refugees in Upper Nile and Unity states. In Upper Nile, the main causes of morbidity among refugees continue to be watery diarrhea, upper tract respiratory infections and malnutrition. Malnutrition levels remain particularly high in the state, with severe acute malnutrition rates currently estimated at 6 per cent, and moderate acute malnutrition rates estimated at 22 per cent. The global acute malnutrition rate is 15 per cent in refugee sites in both states. At the



Sudanese refugees in Upper Nile and Unity states

the Yusuf Batil site where the more recent arrivals are located, the malnutrition status of the population is particularly alarming and humanitarian agencies are conducting more in-depth surveys to ascertain malnutrition rates.

Aid organizations hope that moving refugees from the Jamman site to the new Gendrassa settlement in Upper Nile will improve health conditions through increased water access and better hygiene. So far, 2,850 people have been relocated since the exercise began on 25 July. Water systems in Gendrassa have been set up to cater for at least 10,000 people. It is anticipated that the current water supply system will be able to supply at least 13 litres of water per person per day. The target is to bring water supply level up to 15 litres per person per day, which is at the internationally recommended level.

In Unity State, health partners continue to work to tackle the high incidence of diarrhea among children under-five years. In the six weeks leading up to mid-July, 417 cases of acute bloody diarrhea were registered at Yida, the largest refugee site in South Sudan, currently hosting more than 58,000 people. Health agencies are strengthening sanitation and hygiene conditions at Yida in order to mitigate the impact of water-borne and hygiene related diseases. Jerry cans are being replaced for all families with under-five children to mitigate risk of water contamination. Water systems are also being expanded to increase the amount of water supplied to respond to the growing population. Thousands of additional kits containing household items, prioritizing plastic sheeting, mosquito nets and soap, have reached Bentiu in Unity State, and will be airlifted to Yida for distribution in the coming days.

Returns to South Sudan

Humanitarian partners continue to assist returns movements

Humanitarian organizations continue to provide transport to South Sudanese from Sudan returning to final destinations across the country. In Upper Nile, an IOM-supported barge convoy is being loaded for Juba with 2,500 passengers on board. The convoy, which departed Malakal on 19 July, reached Terrekeka on 29 July. It is expected to reach Juba port on 31 July, when relief agencies will be on hand to provide returnees with emergency

humanitarian assistance. A further 500 returnees wish to travel from Renk to Maban in Upper Nile. Humanitarian partners are looking into the feasibility of assisting this group, including assessing conditions at final destinations. In Malakal, onward transport is being organized for 46 people who were not fit to travel on the barge currently in transit to Juba.

Some 924 returnees traveling from Juba to the Greater Bahr el Ghazal region, Lakes, and Unity states were also provided with transport during the week. After the departure of the convoys, only 212 individuals remain at the returnee way station, 196 of this group have indicated that Juba is their final destination. The way station has been cleared ahead of the arrival of the barge from Malakal and then the following barge from Renk.

1,700 returnees at Juba transit site to be relocated

In Juba, the transit site at the National Teacher Training Institute which hosts some 1,700 returnees is scheduled to close down in early August so that teacher training can begin again. The Government and humanitarian partners are assessing potential sites where returnees can relocate. The majority of returnees at the site plan to stay in the Juba area, but lack land or other means of integrating.

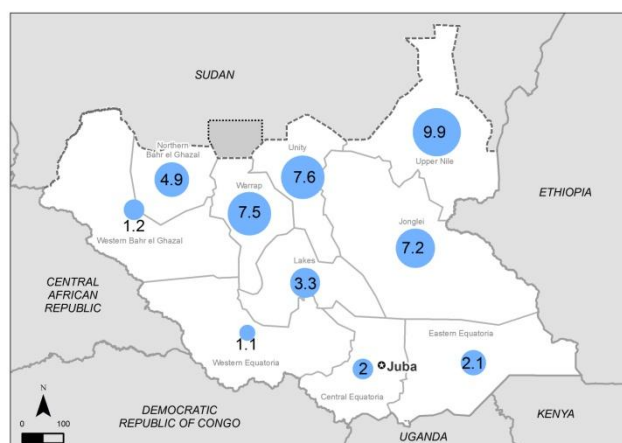
Preparations for organized returns from Sudan continue

In Sudan, the next significant movement of returnees to South Sudan is likely to be from the Kosti railway station, where the Government of Sudan wishes an estimated 3,000-4,000 returnees to move onwards. In Khartoum, verification for return has begun of extremely vulnerable people who have been residing in open areas near the capital. An estimated 1,300 extremely vulnerable people will receive humanitarian assistance. This group will be transported by humanitarian partners via air to South Sudan.

Humanitarian planning and coordination

US\$10 million humanitarian funding targets refugees

A special US\$10 million allocation from the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) reserve will be disbursed to humanitarian organizations to support the emergency response operation to some 167,000 Sudanese refugees in Upper Nile and Unity states. The CHF is a multi-donor pooled fund used to support the timely allocation and disbursement of donor resources, to areas of urgent need. The \$10 million funding will ensure that



2012 CHF allocations (in million \$)

humanitarian activities in the areas of nutrition, health, water, sanitation and hygiene are maintained in refugee settlements and host communities. A logistics component is also included to ensure access by humanitarian actors, and supplies to people in need. Allocation of the CHF reserve will take place in July, with disbursement of funds to occur in August. The funding will complement an allocation of \$20 million approved mid-July from the Central Emergency Response Fund. While the CERF supported UN agencies for the refugee crisis response, NGO projects have been prioritized for CHF funding.

Returnees residing at the Juba transit site will be relocated when the National Teacher Training Institute reopens at the end of the month

Consolidated Appeal FUNDING

1.2 billion requested (US\$)

574 million received (US\$)

50% funded

Source: Financial Tracking Service

Between January and July, at least 52 incidents of harassment or interference in humanitarian operations by state actors took place

Humanitarian organizations face increasing obstacles

The operating space for humanitarian organizations to provide assistance to people in need continues to be challenging. Between January and July, at least 52 incidents of harassment or interference in humanitarian operations by state actors took place, as well as at least 12 incidents committed by unknown or non-state armed actors. Commandeering of vehicles by the South Sudan army (SPLA) was the most commonly reported problem, but harassment at checkpoints, looting of humanitarian compounds, and the beating of humanitarian staff were also frequently reported. In addition, increasing concerns are being expressed by international NGOs regarding bureaucratic impediments impacting on their ability to provide urgently needed humanitarian assistance. Senior humanitarian partners are working with the Government of South Sudan to resolve these issues.

On a positive note, the occupation of schools by the military has been decreasing in May, June and July, following pro-active engagement by SPLA and advocacy by humanitarian actors. In addition, the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission has also engaged pro-actively to resolve specific access-related incidents.

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