

HIGHLIGHTS

- 9 of 25 suspected cases of Hepatitis E in Yida refugee camp have tested positive, according to UNHCR.
- Improved access to food in most areas of the country has been reported with the start of the harvest season, according to the latest food security outlook report from FEWS NET.
- An IOM-supported barge departed Renk in Upper Nile State on 30 October, carrying 880 returnees to Juba.

FIGURES

Conflict incidents	234
Number of people newly displaced	170,709

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

Consolidated Appeal FUNDING

1.2 billion
requested (US\$)

683 million
received (US\$)

58% funded

Source: Financial Tracking Service

2.4 million

Food-insecure people targeted (4.7 million at risk of food insecurity. Source: CAP MYR



Refugees walk across the airstrip in Maban County, Upper Nile (UNICEF/Sokol)

In this issue

[Situation overview P.1](#)

[Challenges, needs and response P.1](#)

[Refugee update P.3](#)

[Returns to South Sudan P.5](#)

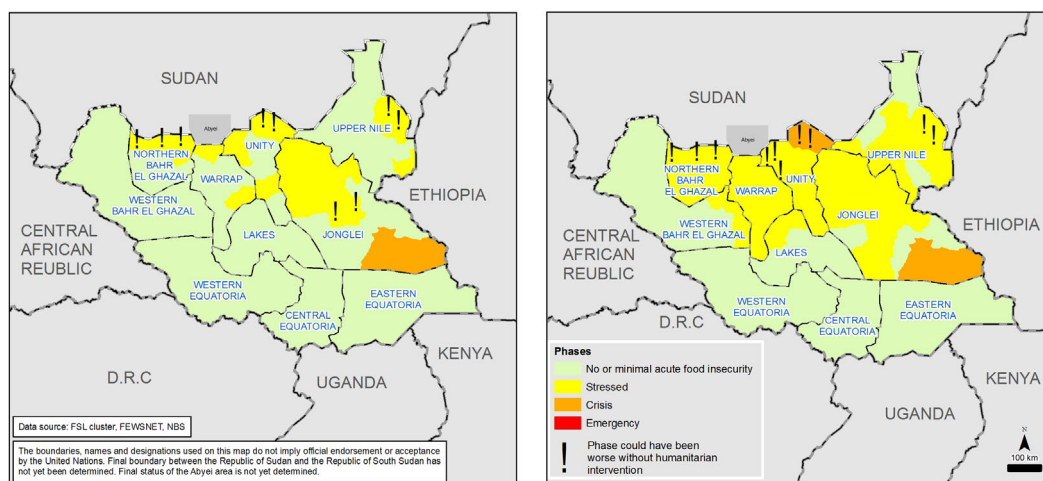
Situation overview

Humanitarian assistance continued to over 175,000 Sudanese refugees in Unity and Upper Nile states. As of 29 October, nine of 25 suspected cases of Hepatitis E in Yida refugee camp in Unity State had tested positive, according to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR). To date, 27 people have died from the disease in Unity and Upper Nile. In Jonglei State, humanitarian organizations continued to register and prepare the delivery of aid to over 5,600 people displaced by recent fighting between the South Sudan army and non-state armed actors.

In Renk in Upper Nile, humanitarian partners organized the movement of 880 returnees to Juba, due to arrive in the capital in mid-November. Food for the journey and medical screening was provided to all returnees prior to departure. On the food security front, the latest FEWS NET report indicates that the food security situation has improved with the start of the harvest season.

Challenges, needs and response

Food security improves with the start of the harvest



Maps: Projected food security outcome, October to December 2012 (left), January to March 2013 (right), Source: FEWS NET

The main harvest season has begun across South Sudan, resulting in improved access to food in most areas of the country. According to the latest Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) report, a near-average harvest is expected at national level, indicating that household expenditure on food will reduce in the short-term. While average to good harvests are expected in the Equatorias, Lakes and Western Bahr el Ghazal, below-average harvests are likely in Jonglei, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Unity and Warrap states, due to excessive flooding and reduced cultivation due to earlier displacement.

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

Cross-border trade is expected to resume between South Sudan and Sudan following the recent peace agreements signed in September, although no border reopenings have yet been confirmed. Sudan has announced intentions to export sorghum to South Sudan, a move that would significantly improve cereal availability in South Sudan and stabilize prices. Though well above the long-term average, food prices have begun to fall in line with seasonal trends, and are likely to continue to decline through January 2013.

The main areas of concern include Jonglei, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Unity, Upper Nile and Warrap states, where 'stressed' levels of food insecurity will persist through to March 2013, due to the impact of flooding, above-average prices, and the needs of displaced and refugee communities. 'Crisis' levels will continue to persist in Jonglei's Pibor County through to March 2013, due to the impact of displacement on asset levels, and food and income sources.

Humanitarian assistance continues in Jonglei State

The security situation in Jonglei State's Pibor County continued to be tense, with fighting reported in Likuangle early in the week, according to UN Security. Aid agencies continued to register people displaced by the recent fighting, and to provide assistance to those in need. Over 5,600 people were registered as displaced as of 2 November, the majority located in Pibor town.

The Logistics Cluster helicopter began to deliver aid to Pibor on 29 October, with close to 20 metric tons of relief being delivered to date. Relief items include blankets, water buckets, nutrition supplements, plastic sheeting, sanitation and hygiene assistance. Air operations to other locations in Jonglei will commence in the coming days.

While the start of the dry season - which begins in November - means that affected areas will become more accessible, humanitarian organizations are concerned that it could also result in an upsurge in violence.

Relief underway to flood-affected communities in Upper Nile

State	Flood-affected people*	Flood-affected counties
Jonglei	201,396	10 out of 11
Lakes	24,600	3 out of 8
Warrap	13,352	4 out of 7
Unity	8,826	8 out of 9
Northern Bahr el Ghazal	7,202	4 out of 5
Western Equatoria	3,975	4 out of 10
Upper Nile	370	7 out of 12
Eastern Equatoria	-	2 out of 8
Central Equatoria	-	1 out of 6
Western Bahr el Ghazal	-	1 out of 3
Total	259,721	44 out of 79

*Reported by assessment teams. Information as of 4 November 2012.

In Upper Nile State, some 1,500 households were affected by flooding in Nasir County. In response to the flooding, partners on the ground provided households in need with 3,000 mosquito nets, 625 sleeping mats, 270 blankets and 300 cooking sets. Medical supplies were also provided, and all affected people received up to 15 days worth of food rations. Eight hundred households were provided with fishing kits. Humanitarian agencies organized an assessment to determine the impact of flash flooding in Ulang County, and a response will be underway when the results of the assessment are finalized. Reports of new flooding incidents continued to decrease across the country, as the end of the rainy season neared and rains reduced.

Water, sanitation and health relief provided to Abyei community

Humanitarian assistance continued to communities displaced from Abyei, following fighting that broke out in the contested area in May 2011. Humanitarian partners in Agok

A polio campaign to start on 6 November in Agok and Abyei will vaccinate 12,600 children under five years

are addressing water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) needs in local schools. Schools have absorbed thousands of children from displaced families, overwhelming local resources and infrastructure. Humanitarian partners are developing a multi-sector action plan to improve WASH support for the host community and children who are displaced. WASH partners provided a permanent water source to one primary school, which will provide water to 2,500 students.

A polio vaccination campaign is set to begin on 6 November covering Agok, Abyei town and locations in northern Abyei, including Diffra. The campaign will provide vaccinations to 12,600 children under five years, targeting the residents of Abyei and the Misseriya community.

The annual migration of the Misseriya pastorists commenced through the Abyei area in October. The UN peacekeeping mission, UNISFA, increased its patrols in the area to ensure a violence-free migration. So far the migration has largely proceeded in an orderly manner, according to the UN mission.

On the political front, the Vice President of Sudan declared the country's rejection of the African Union Peace and Security Council's 24 October recommendation regarding the final status of Abyei. The recommendation is that South Sudan and Sudan seek to reach consensus on the status of the contested area within six weeks of the issuance of the October 24 communiqué.

Refugee update

Nine cases of Hepatitis E confirmed in Yida

As of 29 October, nine of 25 suspected cases of Hepatitis E in Yida refugee camp in Unity State had tested positive, according to UNHCR. In response to the rise in cases of the disease, a joint mission of health experts from the Ministry of Health, World Health Organization and UNHCR will visit Yida next week to assess the situation and determine if a Hepatitis E outbreak should be declared in Unity. Since the Hepatitis E outbreak was announced in Upper Nile in September, 27 refugees have died from the virus in the two states.

WASH efforts continued in an effort to prevent the spread of the disease. Some 550 community health workers, hygiene promoters and volunteers are working within the refugee communities to share information on Hepatitis E and water-carried disease prevention. Latrine slabs, soap, new buckets and jerry cans are being prioritized for airlift to Yida from warehouses in Bentiu and Juba. Partners are simultaneously undertaking an assessment to ensure that latrines are being properly installed, cleaned and used.

WASH conditions continue to improve at all water points, and aid agencies are focusing on reducing stagnant water around tap stands by improving drainage, and introducing measures to decrease hand contamination while fetching water.

REFUGEES

Numbers in Upper Nile

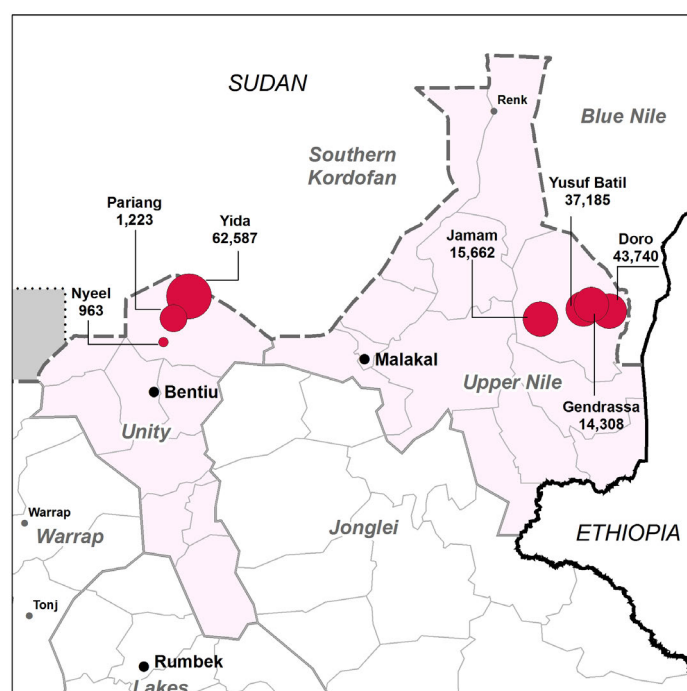
Doro	43,740
Gendrassa	14,308
Jamam	15,662
Yusuf Batil	37,185
Total	110,895

Numbers in Unity

Nyeel	963
Pariang	1,223
Yida	62,587
Total	64,773

Source: UNHCR, figures as of 4 November 2012.

27 refugees have so far died from Hepatitis E since the outbreak was announced in Upper Nile in September,



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

In an effort to diffuse tensions, aid agencies undertook an extensive assessment of the situation, bringing together local leaders, women's groups, traders and youths

Aid agencies work to reduce tensions between host community and refugees



Sudanese refugee children jump rope at a child friendly space in Doro refugee camp, Upper Nile State (UNICEF/Sokol)

Humanitarian organizations have helped to ease tensions between refugee and host communities in Upper Nile State. The presence of over 110,000 Sudanese from Blue Nile State into Maban County had led to increasing tensions with host communities, over access to natural resources, felling of trees for firewood and livestock encroaching on grazing lands.

In an effort to diffuse tensions, aid organizations undertook an extensive assessment of the situation, bringing together local leaders, women's groups, traders and youths. The discussions found that local communities were particularly concerned over the depletion of natural resources such as water and forests. A host community and refugee relations committee has been set up in Doro refugee settlement, and similar conflict-resolution committees are being established in the other three camps in Maban County. Three reconciliation meetings between the two sides have taken place, engaging local government officials. In addition, aid agencies stepped up the coordination of interventions that benefit the host community.

Host communities benefit from assistance provided by humanitarian actors. For example, a surgery theater has been established at the county hospital in Bunj town accessible to both refugees and the host community. Health clinics in refugee camps are open to members of the host community, as are water tap stands. Boreholes have been drilled for local villages, and seeds and tools have been distributed to both refugee and local communities.

Mission to assess viability of new refugee sites in Unity State

UNHCR undertook an air mission during the week to explore the suitability and accessibility of potential relocation sites for some 62,000 refugees currently located at Yida in Unity State, and for future arrivals.

The proposed sites have been offered by the Government of South Sudan, identified by UNHCR for the refugee community.

Yida settlement is located close to Sudan's Southern Kordofan border, and as such is a high-risk protection environment for refugees, with the recurrent presence of armed personnel in and around the settlement. Refugee leaders will be fully engaged in the process, should the sites be determined viable options for relocation.



Samira Abdullah cooks in her family's tent after attending class at a child-friendly space in Jamam refugee camp (UNICEF/Sokol)

Yida settlement, hosting some 62,000 Sudanese refugees, is located close to Sudan's Southern Kordofan border, and as such is a high-risk protection environment for refugees

Returns to South Sudan

Organized movements of returnees resume

Organized movements by humanitarian partners of South Sudanese returnees to final destinations across the country resumed during the week. A convoy of returnees arrived by road to Greater Bahr el Ghazal from Juba on 30 October. The convoy, which was organized by IOM, had departed Juba the week prior. Onward transport was provided the following day for returnees destined for Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Warrap states.

Between 26 October and 1 November, almost 750 returnees were tracked en route to their new homes in South Sudan, bringing the total number of returnees having left Sudan for South Sudan since the start of 2012 to more than 132,500 people.

Barge carrying 880 returnees departs Renk for Juba



Friends and family in Renk County wave goodbye to the barge carrying returnees to Juba (IOM)

An IOM-supported barge departed Renk in Upper Nile for Juba on 30 October with 880 people on board. Returnees were provided with three week's worth of food when they departed Renk, and were medically screened to ensure they were fit for travel. Some 20 hygiene promoters and protection monitoring volunteers accompanied the passengers, to assist in handling medical and protection concerns. When the barge docked in Malakal on 1 November, additional medical

supplies, water purifying tablets and soap were provided before departing the next day. The barge is expected to reach Juba mid-November.

Airlift of highly vulnerable returnees delayed

The programme to airlift almost 1,400 returnees from Sudan's capital Khartoum to Northern Bahr el Ghazal's Aweil town was organized to start within the week, supported by humanitarian partners. However, at the last minute permission to fly was not granted in Sudan. Humanitarian partners in Sudan are trying to negotiate the commencement of these flights. The returnees are made up of vulnerable individuals, including the elderly, people with physical disabilities or medical conditions with a high risk of developing complications if they continue living in the open areas of Khartoum, unaccompanied minors, vulnerable female-headed households and pregnant women with medical complications.

IOM estimates that about 132,500 people returned to South Sudan from Sudan since January 2012

880 returnees traveling from Renk to Juba were provided with food and medical screening prior to departure

Humanitarian partners anticipate that 125,000 South Sudanese will return from Sudan in 2013

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

South Sudan critical events timeline

