

HIGHLIGHTS

- At least 14,000 people were affected by inter-communal clashes in Akobo County, Jonglei State on 8 February.
- Aid organizations are concerned about the high number of refugee arrivals into Yida in Unity State, with 1,400 people arriving in the past week alone.
- An allocation of US\$56.5m towards emergency preparedness and response by the South Sudan Common Humanitarian Fund will benefit up to 1.5 million people across the country.

BASELINE INDICATORS

Population (2008) (NBS)	8.26m
GDP per capita (NBS)	\$1,546
Pop. living below poverty line (NBHS)	50.6%
Life expectancy (SHHS)	42 years
Child mortality (SHHS)	105/1,000
Maternal mortality (SHHS)	2,054/100,000
<5 global acute malnutrition (NBS)	18.1%
Adult literacy (NBS)	27%
Net enrolment secondary education (EMIS)	1.6%
Households using improved sanitation (SHHS)	7.4%
Households with improved drinking water sources (SHHS)	68.7%



A Sudanese child receives a vaccination in Gendrassa refugee site, Upper Nile State (UNICEF/Sokol).

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Situation overview

The humanitarian response was underway to respond to at least 14,000 people affected by recent inter-communal clashes in Jonglei State's Akobo County, with medical support and inter-agency assessments ongoing in affected areas. Separate incidents of inter-communal fighting in the tri-state area reportedly left scores of people dead, with aid organizations preparing to assess the humanitarian impact of the violence.

Efforts to curb the spread of Hepatitis E continued in Upper Nile State, where 6,000 people have been affected so far. In Unity State, preparations are ongoing to open a new refugee site, in response to growing numbers of arrivals from Sudan's South Kordofan and to relieve pressure on the Yida settlement.

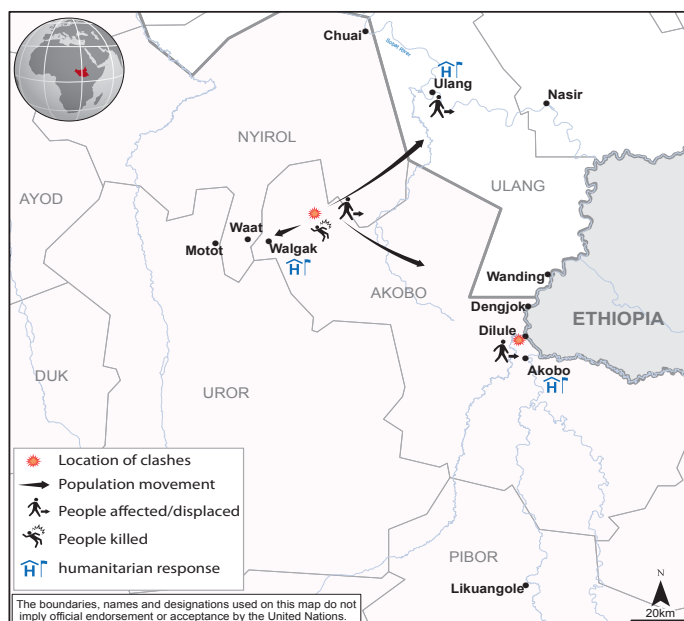
Over \$56 million was allocated to emergency preparedness and response in South Sudan from the Common Humanitarian Fund on 15 February. The majority of the funding will be used to provide emergency assistance to people in highly vulnerable areas.

Challenges, needs and response

At least 14,000 people affected by Akobo clashes

The humanitarian response continued following violent clashes that occurred close to Walgak in Akobo County, Jonglei State on 8 February, killing scores of people. Health partners have so far treated 35 people wounded during the attacks. An inter-agency assessment will begin in the affected areas of Walgak on 18 February.

An inter-agency humanitarian assessment was carried out in Ulang County in Upper Nile State on 16 February, identifying some 10,600 people affected by the clashes. Food and household items were identified as the most urgent needs, and are being mobilized from Malakal. Health organizations on the ground are treating the wounded, conducting immunizations and providing health education.



Map showing areas of recent inter-communal clashes in Jonglei State.

FIGURES 2013

Violence-related incidents	46
Number of newly displaced people	12,433

Source: OCHA based on reports from local authorities and assessment teams. Figures as of 15 February 2013.

CLUSTERS

Lead/Co-lead organization

Coordination & common services	OCHA NGO Sec.
Education	UNICEF Save the Children
Emergency telecomms	WFP
Food security & livelihoods	FAO/WFP VSF-B
Health	WHO IMC
Logistics	WFP
Mine action	UNMAS Handicap Intl
Multi-sector	UNHCR IOM
Nutrition	UNICEF ACF
Protection	UNHCR NRC
Shelter and NFIs	IOM WVI
Water, sanitation & hygiene	UNICEF Medair

Consolidated Appeal

FUNDING

1.16 billion
requested (US\$)

6.4 million
received (US\$)

0.6% funded

Source: Financial Tracking Service, as of 17 February 2013

While the clashes did not result in displacement, as people were reported to be in the process of migrating to better pastures, the loss of cattle is believed to have resulted in an increase in vulnerability in terms of food security, livelihoods and a loss of household items.

Further related clashes in Dilule payam near Deng Jok, north of Akoko on 10 February caused some 4,000 people to be displaced, according to an inter-agency assessment carried out from 14-15 February. Food, health, household items, nutrition, water and sanitation were identified as the most urgent needs of the people displaced.

5,000 people displaced by insecurity in Pibor County receive food aid

Elsewhere in Jonglei State, food security partners distributed 400 metric tons of food to 5,000 people displaced by insecurity in Pibor County in October 2012, who were previously inaccessible due to restricted road access. Food rations to last two weeks were distributed in Pibor and Gumuruk towns. An additional 4,000 people displaced from Likuangle are yet to be verified and provided with assistance.

Aid agencies concerned about tensions between South Sudan and Sudan

Tensions continued to mount between South Sudan and Sudan, with military buildup reported along the joint borders over the past weeks, and an unconfirmed aerial bombing north of the disputed Jaw area between Unity State and Sudan's South Kordofan on 14 February. Four injured people were brought to medical facilities in South Sudan as a result of the bombing, according to aid organizations on the ground. While no civilian displacement was reported following the reported attack, humanitarian agencies are concerned about the possible impacts of further insecurity. Jaw is located about 25 kilometres from the Yida refugee settlement, hosting close to 67,000 Sudanese people.

Inter-communal fighting in tri-state area leaves 36 dead

Separate incidents of inter-communal fighting in Lakes and Warrap states left an estimated 36 people dead, according to local authorities. In Lakes State, 16 people were reportedly killed in inter-communal clashes which took place about three kilometres from Rumbek North County headquarters on 13 February, according to the County Commissioner. Humanitarian partners on the ground will carry out an inter-agency assessment in the coming week to determine the impact of the fighting.

In Warrap State, fighting between three communities in Tonj South and Tonj East counties at Wanalel, located on the border between the two counties on 14 February, reportedly killed 20 people and injured 24, according to local authorities. No one was reportedly displaced as a result of the violence.

People returning to Abyei receive food and household items

Preliminary findings from the latest tracking report of people returning to the disputed Abyei area revealed that out of more than 21,000 people having returned since July 2012, only 56 per cent were found in their places of origin. This suggests that although figures of people returning continue to increase, the rate of people staying permanently in Abyei may be declining. It is thought that people are moving back and forth between locations of return and displacement, likely because families are split between Abyei and areas of displacement. The in-depth tracking report carried out at the end of January by the Emergency Returns Sector will be released in the coming week.

Recently returned families in Abyei, who were displaced by conflict in May 2011, continued to be assisted with household items, including mosquito nets, plastic sheets and blankets. Food was also provided to people having recently returned from Wau in Western Bahr el Ghazal State.

REFUGEES

Numbers in Upper Nile

Doro	44,722
Gendrassa	14,944
Jamam	16,086
Yusuf Batil	37,229
Total	112,981

Numbers in Unity

Nyeel	897
Pariang	795
Yida	66,913
Total	68,605

Source: UNHCR, figures as of 17 February 2013.

700 new latrines have been constructed in Yusuf Batil refugee site, where Hepatitis E has been the most prevalent.

The new refugee site in Unity State will host up to 20,000 people when it is up and running in March.

Refugee update

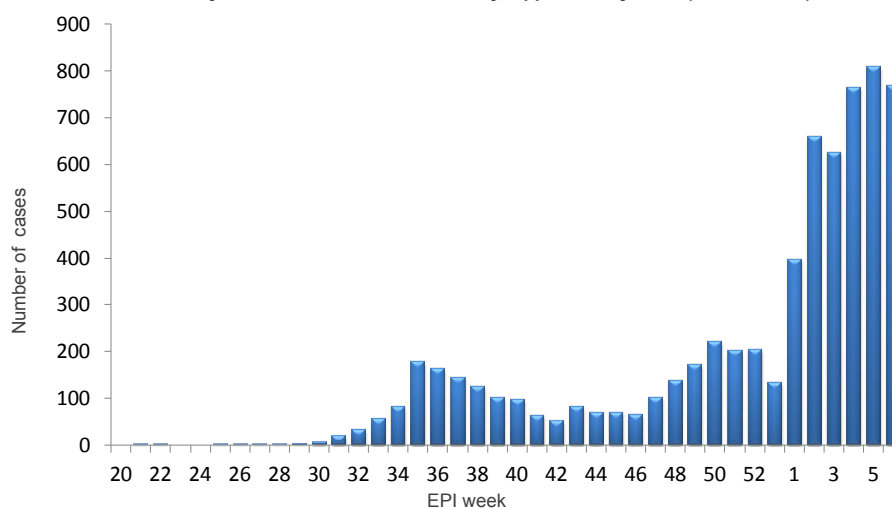
Efforts continue to curb spread of Hepatitis E

Aid organizations focused on activities to prevent the spread of Hepatitis E, which recently spiked in refugee sites in Upper Nile State's Maban County. A water, sanitation and hygiene programme was implemented across all four sites to enhance sanitation, improve water availability and promote better hygiene practices.

New latrines are being constructed, with 700 completed in Yusuf Batil settlement, where the disease is most prevalent. Monitoring and testing of emergency water distribution systems has been strengthened and water is being treated with free residual chlorine at tap stands. Awareness campaigns on Hepatitis E transmission and handwashing are ongoing across the four sites in Maban. However, gaps have been identified in the maintenance of toilets and handwashing facilities, which is largely the responsibility of refugee communities. Refugees have been encouraged to follow key messages to curb the spread of the disease. Hygiene promoters are disseminating messages during group meetings, at food distribution points and during vaccination campaigns.

The outbreak of Hepatitis E, which was announced in July 2012, has affected over 6,000 people in Maban and killed 126 people so far, according to the Ministry of Health and UNHCR.

Acute Jaundice Syndrome cases in Maban County, Upper Nile by week (UNHCR/MoH)



Unity State refugee site to open mid-March

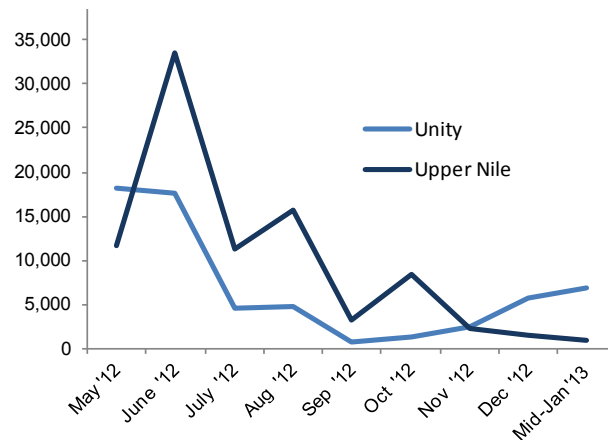
Preparations are underway to open a new refugee site in Ajoung Thok in Unity State, to host new arrivals from Sudan's South Kordofan, and to ease capacity at the existing Yida refugee site, the largest settlement in South Sudan. Site clearance of the reception area, selected household blocks and aid agency compounds in Ajoung has been completed, and plot demarcation and mapping has begun. Water and sanitation partners conducted a water pumping test in the local host community in Jamjang. Partners will also service the water borehole for the host community in Jamjang to improve their access to potable water. Rubhalls will arrive shortly so that humanitarian organizations can begin stocking relief items on site.

Concern about high number of arrivals in Yida

Aid agencies are concerned by the high number of refugees arriving in Yida. With nearly 1,400 people registered in the past week, the population continues to grow and exacerbate conditions in the congested site. At this rate, the settlement could see upwards of 120,000 people by June, coinciding with the onset of the rainy season. After an initial period of

6,000 suspected and confirmed cases of Hepatitis E have been reported in Maban County and 126 people have died, since the outbreak was announced in July 2012.

supporting the move to the new site, the refugee leadership is now expressing unwillingness to relocate. The UN refugee agency, UNHCR, is working closely with refugees to explain the urgent need to decongest Yida and move away from the insecure Sudanese border.



New Sudanese refugee arrivals into South Sudan (UNHCR)

Over 1,000 suspected combatants departed refugee sites in Upper Nile State as part of a government-led disarmament exercise.

Disarmament exercise concludes in Maban

A disarmament exercise was conducted in all four Maban refugee camps in Upper Nile at the end of January, under the supervision of the Upper Nile State Deputy Governor. A small amount of guns and ammunition was handed in, but over 1,000 suspected combatants departed the sites as a result of the exercise.

Humanitarian organizations are concerned about possible military recruitment in the refugee sites, which infringes on humanitarian space. Reports have also been received of refugees being detained against their will outside the camps, possibly in relation to recruitment. If true, such activities continue to compromise the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum. According to UNHCR, any such activities should be robustly addressed by the appropriate government officials, with whom protection actors are working closely to resolve the issue.

Returnee update

Returnees report harassment en route to South Sudan

Returnees travelling from Sudan to South Sudan via Renk in Upper Nile State reported harassment along their journey in Sudan. Returnees reported being forced to pay bribes at various checkpoints. They also reported having to unload and reload their possessions, during which process valuable assets were often confiscated. The number of spontaneous returnees reaching Renk in Upper Nile State remained low over the past weeks, partially attributable to the closure of the border between South Sudan and Sudan. Over the week, only 11 people were registered in Renk.

Some 330 returnees were tracked heading to final destinations in South Sudan between 8 and 14 February, according to the International Organization for Migration. This brings the total number of returnees having arrived in South Sudan since the start of the year to 4,133 people.

Aid organizations transport returnees to Eastern Equatoria

Humanitarian organizations supported transporting 112 returnees from Juba to Torit County in Eastern Equatoria on 13 February. Another small group of returnees was assisted by boat from Malakal in Upper Nile to Bor in Jonglei State. The latter group was the last related to the government-organized movement supported by the African Inland Church which began in December 2012.

Over 4,100 South Sudanese have returned home from Sudan since the start of 2013.

Humanitarian financing

Over \$56 million allocated for aid operation

Common Humanitarian Funding will boost food security and livelihoods, health, nutrition, water, sanitation and protection in highly vulnerable areas in South Sudan.

The South Sudan Common Humanitarian Fund allocated \$56.5 million for emergency preparedness and response on 15 February, to enable the aid community to respond to humanitarian needs and preposition aid before the rains cut off road access to 60 per cent of the country. The allocation will benefit up to 1.5 million people by boosting food security and livelihoods, education, health, nutrition, water, sanitation and protection in highly vulnerable areas. It will provide nutrition to children and household items for people displaced by violence or seasonal floods.

A provisional funding allocation was made to improve access and logistics through support of the UN Humanitarian Air Service (until the end of March), and to support projects aimed at improving road access in relation to the refugee crisis, a strategy to minimize the use of costly air transport in the rainy season. The provisional allocations will be finalized in the coming week.

The South Sudan Common Humanitarian Fund was established in 2012 to support timely allocation and disbursement of donor funding. It is a vital tool to kickstart the humanitarian operation at a critical time of need when the main funding modality, the South Sudan Consolidated Appeal, is less than 1 per cent funded. The Common Humanitarian Fund is managed by the Humanitarian Coordinator, with support from an Advisory Board comprised of donors, NGOs and UN agencies. The CHF is supported by Australia, Belgium, Denmark, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

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

