



Weekly Bulletin Humanitarian Action in Southern Sudan Week 14, 06 – 12 April 2008

SUMMARY/HIGHLIGHTS

- ✚ Pending return of over two million IDPs from the North to the South delays census.
- ✚ 420,000 doses of meningitis vaccines pre-positioned in Juba and Rumbek.
- ✚ Joint Plan returned 16,663 Sudanese home since January 2008 – up from 13,556 in the previous week.

I. FOCUS ON STABILITY AND SECURITY

Lakes State - The security situation remains tense with unconfirmed reports of over 10,000 armed persons in Rumbek East County, ongoing armed robberies on the Pacong-Bahr Naam and Rumbek-Wulu routes, as well as clashes in cattle camps. The armed robbery incidents have all taken place after 20 00 H and none of them have yet affected UN or NGO staff.

Northern Bahr el Ghazal (NBeG) – Due to tensions at the boarder of Southern and

Northern Sudan, the areas to the north of Majokiyenthieu on the way to Mereim, and Rumaker remain in security Level Four - no go area for UN Agencies and NGOs. A peace meeting between the Messiriya and Dinka people was postponed due to lack of appropriate Missiriya representation needed to resolve the conflict that caused the closure of the Mereim road.

II. CURRENT ISSUES

Census Deferred - On 12 April, the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) resolved to defer the National Census from 15th April to a date yet to be announced. A number of reasons necessitated the deferment, according to a GoSS press statement. Among the reasons and of concern to the humanitarian community was that there are over two million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the North that need to be returned to the South before the Census can go ahead. GoSS cited resource constraints and security issues as hindrances to faster repatriation of the IDPs. Al Jazeera television reported that the presidency has decided to let the Census go ahead on 22 April. However, GoSS minister of Information and Broadcasting, Gabriel Changson Chang, told Miraya FM that GoSS will only determine its position on the proposed new date on 15th April.

Meningitis Vaccines Pre-positioned - Southern Sudan health authorities and partners have pre-positioned meningitis vaccines in the capital Juba and Rumbek to prepare for response to possible outbreaks, the UN Integrated Information Network (IRIN) has reported. (*See details under Health*)

III. POPULATION MOVEMENTS AND RETURNS

IDPs, Returns & Reintegration (from UNMIS/RRR)

Joint Organized Return Plan

The total number of individuals returned under the Joint Plan since January 2008 has risen to 16,663 – up from 13,556 last

week. The Joint Plan is coordinated and implemented by the Government of National Unity (GoNU), the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS), the United

Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) and IOM.

During this week, 561 individuals (155 households) were transported from Khartoum to Upper Nile, and 700 individuals (143 households) from Khartoum to Western Bahr el Ghazal State.

Lakes State - received 458 returnees out of 1,428 targeted for the ending returns season. No more returnee movements are expected into the state this season.

Northern Bahr el Ghazal (NBeG) - UNMIS RRR received a convoy of 1,033 returnees from South Darfur. IOM is planning to bring 8,000 returnees from South Darfur to NBeG in 2008.

The movement of 1,000 returnees from Khartoum to NBeG with IOM support is on halt due to closure of Miriem road.

Central Equatoria State - IOM has registered approximately 2,000 IDPs in Labone to be returned to Jonglei State.

Eastern Equatoria State - During the week, IOM helped to return 347 IDPs to Torit area. The returnees who were mostly women and children spent two nights in Torit way station before they were dispersed to Loronyo and Bur payams. The reception committee is planning land allocation for their resettlement before the rainy season.

Lakes State - The UN/IOM – organized returns' convoys [LK 7 & LK 8] with 320 people, which had been stranded in Kadugli since 26 March due to insecurity along the Kaliek - Abyei return corridor arrived safely in Rumbek on 05 April. The returnees well received and immediately provided with reinsertion packages by partner agencies as follows; three months food ration by WFP; agriculture tools and implements by FOA; and mosquito nets by Church Ecumenical Action in Sudan [CEAS]. All of them were transported to final destinations namely, Greater Yirol and Awerial Counties on 8 April 2008.

Warrap State - According to IOM reported that they will be able to return only 2,000 IDPs from Western Bahr el Ghazal to Warrap this year due to limited funds. The convoy movements will start on 15 April 2008 and end on 26 April 2008.

Western Bahr el Ghazal State - On 09 April the road convoy *WBEG2* with 700 individuals (143 households) arrived in Wau way station. The returnees arrived under force protection. They were received by a high level State Reception Committee led by the Minister of Local Government, Law Enforcement and Order as well as Acting Minister for Social Development. WFP carried out verification and registration of the returnees and distributed food. The Mine Advisory Group (MAG) provided mine awareness/ mine risk education. During the verification and registration exercise, WFP and UNMIS/RRR took note of the prevailing skills among the group to capture the skills and for further reference to re-integration needs and opportunities.

State Organized Returns

Upper Nile State - On 6th and 7th April, 521 individuals (state organized returns) passed through Malakal town enroute to Akobo. The returnees have received food and NFIs. Also, at the same time 515 individuals (state organized returns) arrived at Khorfulus. WFP is planning to provide three months food rations to them.

Jonglei State - 1,036 individuals from Khartoum arrived in Akobo. On 9 April, the pusher *Nakhla* left for Juba with a total of 184 individuals (40 households) on board.

Self Organized/Spontaneous Returns

The ADRA/IOM team in Kosti reported a total of 775 individuals (139 households) passing through the transit hub in spontaneous movements between 4th and 10th April, representing an increase of 11% compared to the previous week. The main

destinations were South Kordofan (63%), and Upper Nile (18%). Another 1,215 individuals passed through the transit hub. Jonglei State - On 11th April, UNMIS/RRR, WFP, ADRA and SSRRC participated in the verification of

spontaneous returnees in Bor. A total 659 individuals (146 households) were screened. The majority of them came from Malakal, and various parts in Eastern and Central Equatoria.

Refugees, Returns and Re-integration (from UNRCO, UNMIS/RRR)

- UNHCR repatriated 4,854 (479) refugees this week. Up to 3,335 persons were repatriated from Uganda to Central and Eastern Equatoria States; 568 from Kenya to Jonglei and Warrab States, and 951 came from Ethiopia to Blue Nile and Upper Nile States. More returns are expected next week. In addition to this organized repatriation, 42 self-assisted returnees from Uganda, Ethiopia and Egypt were given reintegration assistance by UNHCR.
- The return of refugees from Ethiopian camps to Upper Nile State via Pagak corridor is expected to commence on April 14th. About 13,000 individuals are expected to return in bi-weekly convoys. The same return pattern is expected to continue in Maban via the Bunj-Chale road.
- UNHCR continued with the road movement from Kenya, which brought 435 refugee returnees to Jonglei State on the 10th of April. According to UNHCR, there are about two to three convoy movements left from Kenya (Kakuma Refugee camp) before the resumption of the rainy season, which is normally characterized by reduced return activities.
- Up to 7th April, UNHCR repatriated 606 individuals (156 households) to Mabaan County in Upper Nile.

IV. SITUATION, NEEDS AND RESPONSE BY SECTOR

Coordination and Common Services (from UNRCO)

- The state organized returns and the upcoming census have in a way exerted extra pressure on the humanitarian actors, mostly to provide food and non-food items (NFIs). Uncoordinated requests for assistance by the State authority have contributed to the increased pressure. UNRCO / RRR are taking the issue up with Southern Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SSRRC) and relevant ministries to have requests from a defined government channel for timely and quality service.

Disease outbreaks (from OCHA EP&R)

- Polio in Jonglei - One case of wild polio type 1 has been confirmed in Akobo, Jonglei. Information was disseminated on 10th April to UN agencies, Ministry of Health and implementing partners and an ad hoc meeting was held on the next day. UNICEF/WHO have agreed to take the lead on an emergency mop up vaccination campaign, the strategy of which has been determined by a technical working group comprising WHO, MOH, IMC, UNICEF and OCHA. With the current stocks of 450,000 vaccines in country, six counties in Upper Nile and Jonglei will be targetted before the end of April. The remaining National Immunization Days (NIDs) campaign is planned for the entirety of Southern Sudan in early May. Due to the proximity of the case, UN and government counterparts in Ethiopia have been contacted.

Health (from IRIN, WHO, UNICEF)

- Southern Sudan health authorities have pre-positioned an estimated 420,000 doses of meningitis vaccines in Juba and Rumbek in preparedness for swift response to any possible outbreak of meningitis during the dry season, the UN Integrated Information Network (IRIN) reported. This is a part of the 2008 Emergency Preparedness Plan of the Ministry of Health, GoSS supported by partners including WHO, UNICEF and NGOs. Southern Sudan reported over 12,000 meningitis cases in 2007, ranking second to Burkina Faso in numbers of cases out of 21 African countries in the so-called meningitis belt. The meningitis belt, according to WHO, stretches from Senegal in the west to Ethiopia in the east, with an estimated population of 300 million people. Dust storms, unhygienic conditions, congestion, the impact of climate change, absence of adequate health infrastructure and lack of trained personnel increase the risk of meningitis outbreaks in Southern Sudan.
- A distribution plan for Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) accessories including Sibir and deep freezers to boost routine EPI has been completed. Deliveries to county health facilities without functioning cold chain system at the moment like Kodok, Guel kug, Mathiang, Maban and Ulang will start soon.
- 730 doses of measles vaccines and devices were supplied to Tambura County department for the routine immunization services.

Child Protection (from UNICEF)

- UNICEF is working with the Upper Nile State Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration in family tracing of the two children that were demobilized in Tonj.
- In NBeG, UNICEF and partners conducted registration and interviewed 162 individuals (42 households) among them former abductees. They were returned from South Darfur by the Child Welfare Committee.
- Follow up visits of nine households with abductees who arrived with the first convoy in March were conducted (two in Gokmachar, four in Manyiel and three in Nyinken villages of Majakbai). Distribution of NFIs and confidential interviews were also conducted.
- Nine children associated with armed forces and groups (CAAFGs) were demobilized from Mapel barracks. Three of them were transported to Warrap, three to Lakes and one to NBeG for reunification with their families. The remaining two were dissociated from the SPLA but are remaining with their families in Mapel.

Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (from UNRCO)

- The recent disarmament exercise by SPLA in Khorfulus and surrounding areas is believed to have contributed to the reduction of cattle raiding cases along the Sobat Corridor and northern Jonglei. There are no details on the number of weapons collected during the disarmament process.

Nutrition (from UNICEF)

- Two hundred metric tones of nutrition supplies to support treatment and management of severe acute malnutrition in 22 selected health facilities and some pre-positioned for EP&R have been received in Western Bahr el Ghazal by the state Ministry of Health (SMoH). UNICEF supported the Therapeutic Feeding Centre in Malakal with 30 cartons (4,500 Sackets) of plumpy nuts. Total admission at the centre during the week was nine children including one eventual death and three defaulters.

- UNICEF has delivered 400 cartons (60,000 Sackets) of nutritional paste to Aweil for therapeutic feeding centres in Northern Bhar-El-Ghazal.
- Anthropometric equipment for the implementation of the Minimum Nutrition Treatment has been send to the selected seven health facilities in Tambura.

Water and Sanitation (from UNRCO, UNICEF)

- IRC has drilled three boreholes towards a target of 20 boreholes in Aweil town. Water testing is expected soon before the drilled boreholes can be fitted with hand pumps.
- UNICEF conducted health education on importance of drinking safe water and protection of drinking water points in Upper Nile. Two hundred and fifty-two persons benefited from the water hygiene awareness (122 men, 90 women and 40 children).
- Three hand pumps were disinfected with chlorine granules in Yambio County to provide access to safe water sources to 1,500 people.
- UNICEF conducted three hygiene awareness sessions concurrently with mass water points chlorination in Yambio County on safe handling of water from the source to final eater usage benefiting 35 people mostly women and children.
- A total of 136 plastic slabs were dispatched to Eastern counties of Mvolo and Mundri West for construction of school latrines.

Education (from UNICEF, UNRCO)

- Four schools have been completed and two more are under construction in Northern Bahr el Ghazal (NBeG) with funding from the 2007 Common Humanitarian Fund. The enrolments of the schools are as shown below.

	School Name	Payam/County	Enrollment in 2007		
			Boys	Girls	Total
1	Makuei Ageep	Wunlang/Aweil East	199	46	245
2	Mabok Tong	Madhol/Aweil East	199	59	258
3	Denic	Malualbai/ Aweil East	180	250	430
4	Panaapouth	Malual East/ Aweil North	230	175	405
5	Adut Adhot	Bach/ Aweil East (Under condtruction)	283	167	450
6	Mangok	Mangok/ Aweil East (under construction)	403	175	578

- Upper Nile State celebrated the third anniversary of the Go to School Day on 7th April 2008. Attended by H.E the Deputy Governor of Upper Nile State as the Guest of honour, six ministers, school children, citizens, spiritual leaders and women groups. The Governor announced the contribution of the state to construction of six secondary schools in six counties and renovation of ten in Malakal County.
- A training of Accelerated Learning Programme facilitators/teachers supported by UNICEF took place in Kuajok on 9th and 10th of April 2008. Fifteen participants from Tonj south and Gogrial west counties attended the training.
- Ten new classroom tents were erected in Aweil, NBeG State, which increased the number of learning spaces. The school communities were actively involved in putting up the tents.
- UNICEF facilitated a workshop for County Education Officers from Western Equatoria state on Micro Plan which resulted into the development of 10 micro plans for the counties and a state activity plan. Forty-seven participants attended the workshop.

Mine Action (from UNMAO, UNRCO)

- UN-contracted and coordinated organisations completed the following tasks this week:
 - Armor Group completed a route survey and general mine action assessment of the Duk Padeit - Ayod - Waat - Akobo road and surrounding areas. Three dangerous areas were identified and they will be addressed at a later date as and when they are deemed to be priorities by the Southern Sudan Transport and Demining Steering Committee.
 - The UNMIS Kenyan High Risk Demining Company (KHRDC) completed Explosive Ordnance Disposal tasks in Warrap town, and surrounding areas.
 - Mechem completed the route survey and clearance of the Tindalo – Kobo – Rokon route and the Madbar – Alerwey route.
- Two incidents were reported to the UNMAO Malakal office during the reporting period:
 - On 20th March in Tarawa – a boy was injured by a landmine he accidentally detonated when a stone he threw to a cow bounced off and hit a landmine.
 - On 28th March in Malekia – A girl lost her right hand fingers after an object she and her five friends aged five to six were playing with detonated. She was taken to hospital in Malakal.

V. ASSESSEMENTS AND MISSIONS

- On 9 April, OCHA EP&R led an inter-agency verification and assessment mission to Gorom in Rejaf Payam, about 60 km from Juba. The purpose of the mission was to assess the humanitarian needs of a reported figure of 547 victims from the alleged LRA attacks of early February 2008. The mission, which was composed of OCHA EP&R, RRR, IRC, WFP, SSRRC, UNMIS Protection and UNMIS Human Rights verified 128 households in need assistance with food and non-food items. The assessment report may be obtained on request from poole1@un.org.
- A joint UNRCO, WFP, UNICEF, FAO, World Vision, State & County level SSRRC and County authorities visited Lieth and Mathiang Dut Akoth in Northern Bahr el Ghazal on 10th April. The objective was to monitor the situation during the hunger season in Aweil East as well as follow up on nutrition reports made by INGOs working in the area. Moderate malnutrition cases especially among children were observed; and severe malnutrition cases in the OTP run by MSF-France. A full assessment report may be requested from onic.evans@undp.org.
- On 11 April, UNMIS/RRR led an interagency verification mission composed of SSRRC, IRC, WFP, and UNMIS Gender to Bungo Kworjit, Juba Payam, approximately 50 km from Juba town. The purpose of the mission was to verify a reported 4,139 spontaneous returnees who have not received humanitarian assistance. The mission, which was the first of three separate assessments namely: Belle Community, Bungu “A” Court, and Bungu Kworjit verified 133 households. The other two assessments have been schedule for next week.

END

Disclaimer: The information in this report is consolidated from OCHA field reports, UN agencies, RCO at state level, NGOs, and other humanitarian partners. The report is subject to availability of data and does not claim to be exhaustive or fully verified. If you have inputs for the next edition, or questions/comments to the current issue, please contact: maputseni@un.org