



Weekly Bulletin Humanitarian Action in Southern Sudan Week 16, 20 – 26 April 2008

SUMMARY/HIGHLIGHTS

- ✚ 4,634 refugees were repatriated this week

I. FOCUS ON STABILITY AND SECURITY

- Western Equatoria State – The security situation in areas around Yambio town is tense following attacks by the Lord's Resistance Army combatants in Birisi on 20 April. The routes to the areas affected by the LRA attacks remain at security level 3 and humanitarian access to vulnerable communities in the areas is limited.

II. POPULATION MOVEMENTS AND RETURNS

IDPs, Returns & Reintegration (from RCO)

Joint Organized Return Plan

Northern Bahr el Ghazal (NBeG) – On 25 April, 935 returnees UN/IOM organized return arrived to the state from South Darfour. IOM and the UN have returned a total of 7,591 returnees from South Darfur since January 2008.

Western Equatoria State (WES) – UNMIS is working with partners to arrange temporary shelter to accommodate 50 households that are expected to arrive in the near future.

Transport constraints continue to make it difficult for returnees to reach their final destinations. UNMIS RRR, UNDP and UNRCO working with SSRRC and line ministries to cater for future movements of returns in the current planning and budgeting exercise.

State Organized Returns

NTSR

Self Organized/Spontaneous Returns

NTSR

Refugees, Returns and Re-integration (from UNHCR)

- During the reporting week 4,634 returnees reached their chosen destinations in South Sudan and Blue Nile State. Up to **4,621** persons (1,349 families) were repatriated under the organized voluntary repatriation programme. Of these, 3,213 persons (887 families) came from Uganda to Central and Eastern Equatoria State, 569 persons (211 families) came from Kenya to Eastern Equatoria, Jonglei and Upper Nile States and 839 persons (251 families) came from Ethiopia to Blue Nile and Upper Nile States. Thirteen returnees (5 families) were assisted after they self-repatriated. Twelve of them came from Uganda to Central Equatoria State and one person came from Ethiopia to Upper Nile State.

III. SITUATION, NEEDS AND RESPONSE BY SECTOR

Coordination and Common Services (from ...)

- The 2008 Contingency Plan for Western Equatoria State has been finalized by OCHA and partners in the state will keep updating it.

Disease outbreaks and emergency health needs (from OCHA EP&R, WHO)

- Polio – WHO completed a follow up visit to Akobo. Plans are going ahead for first round of National Immunization Days (NIDs) on 7-9th May in South Sudan, 9-11th May in Ethiopia. Ministry of Health - GOSS will send out press release to that effect.
- Meningitis – There are 8 suspected cases in Yei and 6 suspected cases in Kapoeta South County. SMOH/WHO are following up.
- Trauma - 30 patients have been treated in Marial Lou hospital following the tribal fight on Warrap/Lakes border from 21 – 22 April. Ten 10 gun shot victims (GSVs) were transferred to Juba Teaching Hospital.

Health (from UNICEF)

- On 25 April 2008 the State Ministry of Health (SMoH) in Unity State, in collaboration with the NGO Medair, launched the implementation of a mop up accelerated measles campaign in Mayendith County. About 45,000 children (6 – 15yrs) were targeted during the campaign, and UNICEF provided vaccines as well as funds for training and social mobilisation.
- In Upper Nile, UNICEF delivered Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) supplies consisting of 42 bicycles, seven Sibir fridges, two ice liners and three combined fridges to the State Ministry of Health (SMoH) EPI department to strengthen activities at county level. Distribution plans have been developed.
- In Western Equatoria, the SMoH marked the World African Malaria Day with implementing partners on the ground. The function was organised by MSF and UNICEF. Some 500 insecticide treated mosquito nets (ITNs) were distributed to community members who attended the occasion.

Child Protection (from)

- NTSR

Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (from RCO, SC Sweden, UNICEF)

- Demobilized and reintegrated children are concerned by the loss of income they used to receive for their services in the military barracks. For instance, during a follow-up mission in Cueibet by Save the Children Sweden, it was revealed that former child soldiers complain that they are no longer able to financially support their families.

Nutrition (from UNICEF)

- In Western Equatoria, UNICEF supported community-based nutrition education sessions conducted in Nzara County on basic weaning foods. The session was attended by 61 pregnant women and 28 lactating mothers.

Water and Sanitation (from UNICEF)

- In Western Equatoria, Victoria Pump limited have completed installation of four hand pumps in Nzara county providing access to safe drinking water for 2,000 people.
- Safe water sources were successfully rehabilitated by RWD/IRW in Tonj North County with rehabilitation materials delivered by UNICEF from Wau - thus reestablishing access to safe water for 2,000 people in Warrap State.
- Two of 20 broken hand pumps were rehabilitated during the week by Rural Water Department – Western Bahr el Ghazal State in Wau County and re-established access to safe water for 1,000 people in the state.

- Twelve broken down hand pumps in Rumbek Centre, Rumbek East and Cueibet counties were repaired.

Education (from UNICEF)

- Construction of schools is progressing in Unity State and education supplies for four counties have been delivered. UNICEF sent 500 cartons of teachers' kits, students' kits and exercise books to Rukona, Manyendit and Leer counties with an additional 300 cartons sent to Bentiu.
- UNICEF supported the SMoE to conduct a ten-day teacher training course on 24/04/08 in the ten counties of Western Equatoria. The purpose of the training according to the Director for Teacher Education was to identify the number of unqualified teachers currently in the teaching service and take corrective measures.
- UNICEF distributed 247 boxes of exercise books and 166 boxes of student kits to schools in Baggari and Wau South payams in Wau County, WBeG State while 964 boxes of exercise books, 524 boxes of students' kits and 524 boxes of teachers' kits were transported to Twic County, Warrap State.
- 837 boxes of exercise books were distributed to schools in Yirol West County and 94 boxes to Yirol East.
- Teachers' kits were also distributed to schools as follows; 98 boxes to Yirol West, 94 boxes to Yirol East and 94 boxes to Awerrial Counties.

Mine Action (from UNMAO)

- UNMAO-contracted organisations completed route surveys and clearance for the roads from Madbar – Alerwey, and Madbar – Yirol.

IV. ASSESSEMENTS AND MISSIONS

- Joint Assessment on impact of Lakes/Warrap fighting – RCO is leading an assessment team including the South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SSRRC), UNICEF, WFP, FAO and UNMIS to assess the humanitarian impact of the 21-22 March fighting in Maleuth, Lakes State.
- IDP assessment in NBeG - An inter-agency assessment and verification exercise led by UNRCO was carried out in Mathiang Dut Akot on 23 and 24 April. The verification targeted IDPs and vulnerable households in a new payam called Mangok Lou. The IDPs were displaced fighting in Majok Yiethou between the Rumaker and Warguet in January 2008. The team verified 242 vulnerable households among original residents of the area and 224 IDP households. The assessment team recommended immediate food distribution for both groups.
- Joint Assessment on High Refugee Areas - A four-day joint assessment mission was undertaken to Nimule, Mugali and Pageri payams in Magwi county, EES by UNICEF and UNHCR. The mission assessed the water, sanitation, health and education situation in high refugee-return areas, with a view to guide joint programming in 2008 and 2009.

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