



## Weekly Bulletin Humanitarian Action in Southern Sudan Week 18, 04 – 10 May 2008

### SUMMARY/HIGHLIGHTS

- ✚ Returns season is coming to an end as rain season starts
- ✚ Two refugee camps officially closed in Western Ethiopia

### I. FOCUS ON STABILITY AND SECURITY

- Organized armed groups continue to commit armed robberies at NGO compounds and private properties in Juba. Over 25 cases have been reported so far since 28 2008.

### II. CURRENT ISSUES

#### UNHCR officially closed two camps in Western Ethiopia

At the end of April, UNHCR officially closed two of the four camps hosting Sudanese refugees in Western Ethiopia namely, Bonga and Dimma following successful repatriation of some 20,000 refugees that were living there. The two camps had opened in the early '90s and had a combined population of nearly 28,000 refugees. Their closure brought to three, the number of camps which have been closed in western Ethiopia. Another camp called Yarenja was closed in March 2007.

Some 3,000 refugees will be transferred from the closed camps to either Fugnido in the Gambella region or to Sherkole camp in the Benishangul-Gumuz region. Some of the refugees awaiting camp transfer have indicated that they will be returning home to Sudan later in the year using their own means.

UNHCR is now working with the government and other partners, particularly the UN Country Team in Ethiopia to rehabilitate the environment and camp infrastructure such as water systems, schools, health centres, warehouses, office and residential premises, skills training workshops and equipment. These facilities will be handed over to the local administration for use by the local community.

### III. POPULATION MOVEMENTS AND RETURNS

#### **Returns & Reintegration (from UNMIS - Return, Reintegration and Recovery)**

The returns season is coming to an end as early rains are already making some roads impassable, while the wet weather is not good for the health of returnees. Transportation of returnees is usually suspended during the rain season before it can resume in the next dry season. During this week small numbers of returnees were recorded under the Joint Organized Return Plan, state organized and spontaneous return categories.

#### **Joint Organized Return Plan**

- Kosti tracking recorded 178 individuals destined for various places of Upper Nile state during the week of 25 April to 1 May. In Central Equatoria State, an IOM convoy comprising 426 IDP returnees (166 households) departed Juba way station on May 9 for Jonglei state. Their final destinations were Jalle in south Bor and Maar and Paliau in Twic East. On the same day, another IOM IDP

convoy consisting of 488 IDPs (189 H/H) departed from Labone and arrived at Nimule way station in Eastern Equatoria. The returnees are heading to Jonglei State in the South Bor areas of Kolnyang, Makwach and Anyidi. This convoy is the final caseload of the Labone IDP movement to Jonglei. Another convoy is planned to leave Kajokeji in Central Equatoria on May 18 for Jonglei.

### **State Organized Returns**

A total of 407 individual returnees supported by the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) and Northern Bahr el Ghazal State (NBeG) arrived in Aweil from El Obeid on 8 May. According to some of the returnees, the convoy was a test case to ascertain the security

situation along the road Meiram to NBEG, which had been closed to the public for over four months. They stated that more convoys should be expected in the next couple of weeks.

### **Self Organized/Spontaneous Returns**

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in Malakal recorded 30 households of spontaneous returnees in Malakal during the week of 2 to 8 May.

Some 150 spontaneous returnees arrived in Malakal from Khartoum on 01 May by commercial barges and headed to Baliet on their own.

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

- As of 5 May, 4,555 refugee returnees (1,248 households, 1,792 male and 2,763 female) had arrived in Mabaan County.

**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](mailto:maputseni@un.org)