



Weekly Bulletin Humanitarian Action in Southern Sudan Week 20, 18 - 24 May 2008

SUMMARY/HIGHLIGHTS

- ✚ Situation in Abyei remains tense – Thousands of civilians displaced.
- ✚ 228 cholera cases recorded in Juba Teaching hospital – Humanitarian agencies and Government authorities step up efforts to combat the disease.
- ✚ 94 Children reported missing – as thousands fled conflict to Agok and other locations.
- ✚ 18 treadle pumps distributed by FAO to support vegetable growing.
- ✚ 5 year old picks UXO which exploded prompting surgical removal of the shrapnel.
- ✚ In-depth sectoral assessments continue for Abyei IDPs.

I. FOCUS ON STABILITY AND SECURITY

Abyei

The situation in Abyei remains tense though there has been cessation of hostilities and the town remains a ‘ghost town’ as the civilian population moved to other locations for safety.

Lakes State

On May 19 2008, at around 19:00 hours the compound manager of the NGO Samaritan’s Purse was robbed by people dressed in military uniform. On May 22, Dalbitt a petroleum product company situated adjacent to the WFP compound in Rumbek, that supplies UN agencies among others, was raided by armed men. Similarly the same night, a civilian non-UN staff, was also robbed at gun point in the same area. On the same night of May 22, 2008 until in the morning of May 23, ethnic clashes were reported in Rumbek East area of Bahr Pakang, where two people were shot. One of the two died on the spot, while the other one died on admission to Rumbek Hospital. This prompted revenge killings that claimed five lives. The clans involved are reported to be Panyaar, from Paloch Payam and, Aliab, from Among Ping Payam, North East of Pachong. The road Nyang-Shambe Road was raised to Level 3 particularly from Pakujiac-Kareer from the 23rd of May 2008 following a shooting of without fatality to WFP contractors and an increase in criminal activities around the area.

II. CURRENT ISSUES

UN agencies, NGOs and government authorities continued scaling up their efforts in the provision of health, water and food to the Abyei IDPs. Protection of unaccompanied minors is an ongoing effort. Non food items continue to be distributed to the affected population.

In Juba Teaching hospital a total of 228 cholera cases were recorded, showing a rapid increase in the number of cases as compared to the previous week. This has prompted health authorities and partners to scale up their efforts in combating the disease.

III. POPULATION MOVEMENTS AND RETURNS

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) (from OCHA)

- Following clashes between SPLA and SAF armies in Abyei on 13 May 2008 and renewed fighting the following week about 50,000 IDPs were displaced south wards. A huge number of the displaced population is hosted in Agok, Turalei and Wunrok in Twic County in Warrap state. A total of 1,197 IDPs were registered in Mabil and Maluakon in Aweil East and there are reports of more arrivals in Wau, Western Bahr El Ghazal and Bentiu in Unity state. Humanitarian agencies in close liaison with local public authorities like South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission are working hard in the provision of health, food, water and protection of minors to the vulnerable population. Over 22,000 IDPs and war affected host community person will get the head count. Head count of the IDPs in ongoing to ascertain the actual figures of the displaced population which will help in humanitarian response planning and reaching a level of equity among the affected population.

IV. SITUATION, NEEDS AND RESPONSE BY SECTOR

Coordination and Common Services (from OCHA)

Daily coordination meetings are held in the field (Agok and Turalei) while in Juba meetings have been scaled down to three times a week. The production of the daily sitrep continued to provide a platform for information sharing among organisations and stakeholders.

Disease outbreaks (OCHA EP&R/WHO)

- A total of 228 cholera cases were registered in Juba at Juba Teaching Hospital. This situation has prompted government health authorities, UN agencies and NGOs to scale up their efforts towards combating the outbreak. Two samples taken from the hospital were confirmed to be cholera on 19 May 2008.
- In Magwi 4 samples sent on 19 May 2008 were confirmed as cholera. Ministry of Health and Medair Emergency Response Team are already responding in Magwi, Owingkibul and Parajok with support from UNICEF.

Child Protection (from UNICEF)

- A total of 94 children were reported missing in Agok among the IDPs, 17 children have been found unaccompanied/separated and one child found to be orphaned. Of the unaccompanied and separated children, 11 have so far been successfully reunified with their families through UNICEF-supported tracing programmes, implemented with partners including Save the Children-US.
- In Turalei and Panyok, 54 cases of unaccompanied children were reported, and UNICEF is supporting a rapid registration to cross-reference these children with the lists of missing children held in Agok. However, limited access to other villages makes it difficult to have a full picture of the number of children who may be separated from families or otherwise unaccounted for.
- UNICEF has provided 21 recreation kits to Agok, including footballs, volleyball nets, skipping ropes and other play materials to support the psychosocial needs of children who were displaced from Abyei.

Food Security (from FAO)

- **Assistance to returnees**

The FAO coordinated seeds and tools distribution programme for the 2008 planting season is progressing well with 57,020 families already reached in all 10 State (66 % distribution success). With the rain season fast approaching in the Greater Upper Nile States where distribution of seeds and tools is not as advanced as other parts of Southern Sudan, activities have been scaled up with 10.5 MT of crop seeds distributed to 700 returnee Households in Duk and Ayod Counties and 12 MT of crop seeds (Maize, Cowpeas and Sesame) together with 6,000 pieces of hand tools (maloda, hoes, sickle and panga) also delivered to 1,500 household mainly returnees in Malakal, Bailliet, Ulang and Nasir counties.

- **Support to Livelihoods**

- In Upper Nile, 375 families among them returnees and host communities were able to benefit from the distribution of 750 spools of twines and 9, 375 hooks to boost their livelihood through fishing activities.
- During the week under review FAO provided 20 Kilograms of assorted vegetable seeds and 2 treadle pumps to support the State ministry of Agriculture in Jonglei to conduct demonstrations during training to vegetable growers.
- 16 treadle pumps were distributed to farmer groups in Upper Nile, to encourage small scale non rain based farming among vegetable growers.

Water and Sanitation (from UNICEF)

- Rapid assessments were carried out in Abyei and Twic counties covering Abatok, Malual-alue, Agok, Turalei, Wunrok, Panyjok, Juljok, Madin-gothian and Ganga. All locations are considered to have adequate coverage of water supply with the exception of Agok where a large number of IDPs settled and long queues are visible at the water points, with an estimated waiting time from two to three hours.
- During the week under review UNICEF, in partnership with Catholic Relief Services and PACT Sudan, drilled two new boreholes in Agok that will ensure clean water supply for 1,000 people. The drilling of another 2 boreholes is underway and this will see a reduction in relying on existing sources in Agok. In Juljok, UNICEF installed a water pump at the health clinic managed by an NGO called GOAL.
- Following concerns raised on adequate sanitation provision for the displaced population. UNICEF provided an additional 200 latrine slabs to complement 60 already sent to Agok last week, which together will ensure sanitation for 2,600 people.

Education (from UNICEF)

- UNICEF pre-positioned 150 school kits in a box in Wau, sufficient for 12,000 children, in anticipation of the finalization of pupil registration among the IDPs from Abyei. This will be complemented by the distribution of text books. In Aweil, UNICEF has pre-positioned 150 school tents that can be used as temporary learning space upon completion of the registration process.

Mine Action (from UNMAO)

- Weather conditions are starting to impact on productivity of clearing mines. Only reconstructed routes remain navigable, meaning that it will be increasingly difficult to complete long range route survey and verification tasks.
- On 12 May, a five-year-old girl picked up an object lying in a ditch near her home in Wau town which, when taken by her twelve-year-old brother, exploded, causing shrapnel injuries to both children (with the boy requiring surgery to remove the shrapnel). Initial reports suggest that the object was a plastic grenade. UNMAO will investigate further.
- The Sudan Integrated Mine Action Service (SIMAS), Southern Sudan's only accredited national mine clearance NGO, completed clearance of an area for a Brick Factory in Rokon.

V. ASSESSEMENTS AND MISSIONS

- During the week under review humanitarian agencies and public authorities continued with sectoral assessments that should guide in the provision of emergency response and gap identification for the Abyei IDPs.

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 or Chatora@un.org