



Weekly Bulletin Humanitarian Action in Southern Sudan Week 30, 27 July – 02 August 2008

SUMMARY/HIGHLIGHTS

- ✚ 60,299 refugees returned home so far in 2008
- ✚ Security incidents hamper refugee and IDP repatriation operations (*see Section III*)
- ✚ Localized flooding affects Aweil Town, Northern Bahr el Ghazal State (NBeG) and south of Wunroc, Twic County in Warrap State

I. FOCUS ON HUMANITARIAN ACCESS AND SECURITY

Insecurity and restricted access in parts of Jonglei State – from UNMIS/RRR

- Continued insecurity and limited access to areas of return for IDPs in Jonglei State prevented UNMIS/RRR and other partners from actively supporting the reported inflow of 2,900 people spontaneously returning into Duk County. The field mission that was scheduled on 29 July had to be postponed till further notice. Affected returnees are spread out in Duk Padiet, Duk Paluel and Pagak, where verification was needed prior to the provision of assistance. UNMIS/RRR is working on other modalities in order to ensure timely assistance to these groups.

Food aid looted

- WFP reported the looting of 78 metric tons of food from its Rubb hall pre-positioned in Makundi, Wullu County – Lakes State. This area is inaccessible during the rain season and the food stocks were kept there in order to respond to possible emergency situations. Wullu County has a total of 4,846 returnees of which 1,177 are spontaneous returnees that arrived between April – June 2008 and 24 persons who came through the organized return programme in 2008.

II. CURRENT ISSUES

Flooding in Aweil Town, Northern Bahr el Ghazal State – from UNRCSO, OCHA

- *Situation* - Localized flooding has affected a large number of the inhabitants of Aweil town during the reporting period, according to the South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SSRRC). The SSRRC has currently registered 5,292 households (38,891 individuals) affected. OCHA is making efforts to verify the numbers of affected people to facilitate response. The flooding occurred after the Kuom River burst its banks due to obstruction of river flow by an inadequate bridge across the river. The flooding in Aweil town has also been exacerbated by a poorly drained road that was constructed recently.
- *Response* - Many of the displaced persons have been resettled by the State Government to Maper Akot Aru, 5km out of town along the Aweil – Aroyo road. Government contractors have begun work to improve town drainage. Water levels are said to be falling. UN agencies, UNMIS and NGOs are supporting with provision of clean water, health services, non food items and WFP is verifying numbers of displaced people for distribution of food. OCHA is monitoring the situation closely and will send a staff member to support response coordination.
- *Coordination* - A Crisis Management and Monitoring Committee is being formed to strengthen preparedness and response. Members of this committee will be drawn from senior

management in UN agencies, NGOs, State Government and international organizations based in Northern Bahr El Ghazal State.

Warrap flooding

- An NGO reported that about 1,500 people from 14 villages have been displaced by flood waters to Wunroc and Tulare. Wunroc itself is under threat of flooding. The flooding was caused by a newly constructed road that obstructed the flow of water from west to east.

III. POPULATION MOVEMENTS AND RETURNS

Returns & Reintegration (from UNMIS/RRR, IOM)

- Following the report of an assessed stranded caseload of IDPs in Juba riverside after they returned from Khartoum by barge in June, IOM facilitated the on-ward transportation from Juba to their intended places of return: 1 Household of 8 individuals was transported from Juba to Marbo in Eastern Equatoria State and 16 households (43 individuals) were transported from Juba to Torit on 28th of July. NFI kits were distributed accordingly by IOM and WFP provided them with food packages.
- IOM facilitated the return of 18 individuals from Khartoum to Wau. Among them were qualified Sudanese nationals catered for under the Return & Reintegration of Qualified Sudanese programme. The four qualified candidates have received job offers in the Ministry of Health and Education as health workers and teachers. The candidates and families received their NFI packages and WFP provided them with the food reintegration package to last for three months.
- The Central Equatoria State SSRRC director has confirmed that the 236 households who were displaced (due to alleged attacks by the LRA in Lainya County) have received food from WFP; NFIs, seeds and tools from Caritas and Danish Refugee Council. OCHA has followed up with WHO and MoH on the re-supply of medicines to the Primary Health Care Unit (PHCU) in Lainya.

(Humanitarian Actors in this Sector are: UNMIS/RRR, SSRRC/GoSS, IOM, ADRA)

Refugees, Returns and Re-integration (from UNHCR)

- During the reporting week, one convoy of 69 individuals (19 families) returned from Kakuma in Kenya to areas in Eastern Equatoria in Southern Sudan. This brings the number of assisted returnees in 2008 to 60,299 and 137,253 since the onset of the Voluntary repatriation in December 2005.
- All the corridors remain open except the Yei corridor, which connects Southern Sudan to Uganda due to LRA related insecurity. At the moment most of the returns from Uganda are through the Nimule corridor. No returns took place from Uganda this week.
- Some security incidences on potential return routes were reported during the reporting week. There was a discovery of an antitank mine on the Juba-Torit road. As a result, that corridor has been closed. An LRA related attack on a vehicle along the Juba-Nimule road also led to the introduction of armed escorts on convoys travelling along this route. The insecurity on these two major routes has had a negative impact on the UNHCR repatriation operation. Some returnees from Kakuma who were supposed to come on the convoy to Central Equatoria were advised to remain in Kakuma until a later date due the insecurity on the Juba-Torit road. In another related development, 24 individuals (04 families) are still stranded at the Juba way station due to inaccessibility by land to their return areas in Upper Nile and Jonglei States. These families are in possession of bulky luggage, which makes it difficult to transport them by air. Efforts are being made with other agencies and local transporters to ensure their dispersal in safety and dignity.

(Humanitarian Actors in this Sector are: UNHCR, UNMIS/RRR)

IV. SITUATION, NEEDS AND RESPONSE BY SECTOR

Disease outbreaks (from WHO)

Note: Week 30, which is under review for the rest of this bulletin, is Week 31 in the Health Calendar.

Polio

- A Wild Polio type 1 virus was confirmed in a healthy 24 month old child in Adok village in Leer County of Unity State. The specimen from this healthy child was collected because she was living with a child who had Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP). The specimen from the child with AFP did not grow any virus. The AFP case is a 9 month old infant from Wau Payam of Ayod County. He developed paralysis on 9/6/08 in Ayod. He was taken to Leer private pharmacy where he was detected as an AFP and reported to polio field assistant on 17/06/08. Two stool specimens were taken on 18 and 19 June for polio virus culture. Additional three stool specimens were collected from three close contacts as part of the strategy to detect wild polio circulation even in healthy children.
- The laboratory results from the child with AFP and the two contacts were negative while the specimen from the third contact grew wild polio type 1. The initial results were sent on July 17 but the final confirmation and genetic sequencing results were received on 31 July. The genetic sequencing shows that the virus is related closely to the ones recently isolated in Gambella, Ethiopia.
- Sub-National Immunization day will be conducted in all accessible areas of Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile states plus Kapoeta County from Aug 11-14. This campaign is synchronized with a similar campaign in Gambella, Ethiopia. Enhanced AFP surveillance and detection of cases especially during the house to house SNIDs will be done.

Cholera

- A fresh report of a confirmed cholera outbreak has been received from Nasir County of Upper Nile State. Sixty three (63) cases with one (1) death have been recorded between 14th and 20th of July 2008.
Another rumor of the same disease is emerging from Aweil North county of Northern Bahr El Ghazal.
Two state level visits to the area have been undertaken. In addition, WHO had already pre-positioned a diarrhea kit in Aweil, which will help in this initial response. The outbreak has been brought under control.
- This brings confirmed outbreaks of cholera from January through July 2008 to a cumulative total of 10. Up to 2,230 cases and 40 deaths were recorded.
- While outbreaks have also affected some small rural towns, it is the major cities/towns of high risk states with high population densities swelled by influxes of returnees and IDPs that have accounted for most cases.
- Currently, new reports of Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) cases are coming from Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Unity and Upper Nile States.

Mine Action (from UNMAO)

Accidents / Incidents:

- *Wau:* On 25th July a 12 year old boy was killed in Gotongo in the Wau AOR. While there were no witnesses to the accident, an initial investigation by UNMAO indicates that the boy was likely killed by an Unexploded Ordinance (UXO) whilst herding cattle.
- *Yei:* On 31 July it was reported that an anti-tank mine was discovered on the Jambo – Lainya road during road reconstruction. The UNMAO Yei QA officer removed the mine and initial investigations suggest that this was an isolated incident.

Operations

- *Yei*: NPA completed clearance of Loka Secondary School in Lainya County, and continued with the clearance tasks in Andukase, Lainya, Lutaya, Mundri, and Atende.

Coordination:

- During June and July 2008 the Southern Regional Mine Action Office (SRMAO) contacted UN agencies, government and NGOs in the South and asked them to identify priority tasks for the 2008-9 season. The deadline for collecting inputs was 1st August. These inputs will now be consolidated into a list and presented to the Transport & Demining Steering Committee on 15th August, who will vote them in order of priority. This list will form the basis for tasking over the coming season.

(Humanitarian Actors in this Sector are: United Nations Mine Action Office)

V. ASSESSEMENTS AND MISSIONS

Inter-agency Verification of Spontaneous Returnees in Western Equatoria

- On 28 July, UNMIS/RRR finalized the first phase of Spontaneous Returnees Inter-Agency Verification exercises in Yambio and Tambura counties. Two teams were deployed for each of above-mentioned areas. Logistical support was provided by WFP field office in Juba and the UNICEF state field office, including representatives from UNMIS/RRR, UNMIS/PoC, SSRRC, WFP Juba Field Office, the SRCS/GRC and World Vision. The second phase of the exercise is planned to be carried out in late August 2008, targeting Maridi and Mundri West Counties.
 - Tambura Team findings are as follows: Tambura Payam 605 individuals (118 households) verified; Mopoi Payam 1280 individuals (346 households) verified; and Source Yubu Payam 1173 individuals (194 households) verified. A cumulative total of 3058 individuals (658 households) verified in the whole County (excluding Kapangina Payam due to inaccessibility).
 - Yambio Team findings are as follows: Yambio Payam 351 individuals (74 households) verified; Bangasu Payam 253 individuals (52 households) verified; Li-Rangu Payam 438 individuals (84 households) verified; and Gangura Payam 82 individuals (21 households) verified. A cumulative total of 1124 individuals (231 households) verified in the whole County (excluding Nadiagere Payam due to inaccessibility).
- The main challenges that faced this phase of verifications included: poor information flow, bad road network, reduced accessibility to the communities, lack of reliable tracking data, lack of nominal lists for the whole period under verification, reduced number of vehicles and high maintenance costs for the ones used in Yambio County and difficult community mobilization during the current cropping period.

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