



Weekly Bulletin
Humanitarian Action in Southern Sudan
Week 31, 03 – 09 August 2008

SUMMARY/HIGHLIGHTS

- ✚ WFP distributed NFIs to over 53,000 pupils who are receiving hot meals at schools in Warrap and Upper Nile States under the Food for Education programme.
- ✚ Most convoy routes for returning refugees impassable due to rains, says UNHCR.
- ✚ Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) – Cholera outbreak reported in Aweil following floods, MoH-GoSS and WHO.
- ✚ Medair and UNICEF to construct 100 latrines in Aweil.
- ✚ 50% of children in Gogrial East, Warrap State show signs of severe malnutrition.
- ✚ WFP, UHHAS, WVI and SSRRC consider airlifting food to Gogrial IDPs and host communities in Liethnom.

I. POPULATION MOVEMENTS AND RETURNS

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

Northern Bahr el Ghazal (NBeG) State

- The South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SSRRC) reported that about 39,000 people (5,292 households) were affected and displaced by the flooding in Aweil Town. About 22,244 of these people have moved to a new settlement area in Aweil called Maper Akote. According to SSRRC and UNMIS/RRR, up to 14,645 of these individuals were returnees.
- In response to the flood, humanitarian agencies are currently engaged in provision of NFIs and health services, while state government is distributing grain to those displaced. Other agencies are still developing plans to provide additional services. UNICEF is providing drinking water, which is distributed by UNMIS.
- Beginning 04 August, UNMIS/RRR is facilitating provision of early reintegration assistance to returnees. A total of 3,891 kits are available for distribution to spontaneous returnees. IOM will distribute 591 kits in Aweil East and World Vision will distribute 3,000 kits in five counties. In collaboration with SSRRC, UNICEF will distribute 300 kits in Aweil Centre. This will help alleviate the shelter problem faced by returnees particularly those who arrived after the grass season was over.

Returns & Reintegration (from UNMIS/RRR)

- Return of IDPs is now limited due to heavy rains that have made most roads impassable.
- The ADRA/IOM Kosti team reported a total of 275 individuals passing through the transit hub in spontaneous movements from 02 - 07 August. Main destinations were Central Equatoria and Warrap.
- On 8 August, IOM, UNMIS/RRR and SSRRC held a meeting to discuss the possibility of transporting 435 IDPs from Juba in Central Equatoria State to Yambio

in Western Equatoria State after a special request made by the SSRRC director for that state. UNMIS/RRR, IOM, Islamic Relief and SSRRC commenced the verification and mapping of IDPs in the state. The aim of the exercise is to determine the number of IDPs currently settled in Juba and assess their willingness to return to their area of origin. On 6 August the team visited the Supiri IDP camp located in Juba County, which accommodates a majority of residents originating from Magwi County in Eastern Equatoria. These IDPs were first displaced in 1985 from places like Gumbo and Lologo (southwest of Juba). However, in 1999 they were allotted plots of land in Korrumula, but since there were no legal ownership documents issued to the IDPs, they were subsequently displaced to Supiri.

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

Refugees, Returns and Re-integration (from UNHCR)

- This week, 47 individuals (17 families) came from Arua in Uganda to Central Equatoria and Eastern Equatoria States. Twenty individuals (3 families) were assisted after self-returns from Uganda to Eastern Equatoria and Central Equatoria States. Furthermore, one individual returned from Zambia by air. The total number of UNHCR facilitated returnees in 2008 is now 60,367, while the total since the beginning of Voluntary Repatriation in 2005 is 137,322.
- In Torit, EES UNHCR chaired the 7th returnee and reintegration working group (RRWG) meeting, which was attended by 24 participants from UN agencies, NGOs and Government authorities. UNHCR briefed participants on the return movement and about the returnee monitoring exercise.
- Restrictions issued previously on some LRA-affected roads in CES have been downgraded from Level III to II, providing smoother transit, logistical flexibility and financial savings arising from reduction in mandatory armed escorts.



Repatriation convoy in Chukudu. Jacob Jok Awuol/UNHCR

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

II. SITUATION, NEEDS AND RESPONSE BY SECTOR

Disease outbreaks (from WHO, MoH-GoSS)

Note: Week 31, which is under review for the rest of this bulletin, is Week 32 in the Health Calendar.

- An outbreak of acute watery diarrhoea has affected about 50 people and claimed about 12 lives in Northern Bahr el Ghazal in three of the five counties in the State.

Both state and central level interventions are ongoing. An upsurge of malaria cases in all counties of Unity State has also been reported.

Health (from UNHCR, WHO)

- Deteriorating health conditions have been reported in Aweil town and other areas, as a result of poor sanitary conditions and contamination of water points. (*See assessments, section III*).
- Construction of a UNHCR-funded Public Health Care Unit (PHCU) in Kapoeta North County (IP: ADEO) is now complete and the facility has been handed over to the state ministry of health. During the handover of three other health facilities in Lopa County in EES, the State Minister for Health-Torit registered complaints over empty and un-staffed facilities while the state entity is ill-prepared to meet the recurrent costs of running the facilities. This raised concern that GoSS may be not yet prepared to takeover and manage the facilities. The matter is being addressed with GoSS MoH.

(Humanitarian Actors in this Sector are: Goal, Ministry of Health, MSF-Switzerland, SSRRC, and UNICEF, WHO as sector lead)

Water and Sanitation (from Medair)

- Medair will construct 100 emergency latrines in cooperation with UNICEF in Aweil, NBeG State. A water and sanitation team from Medair has assessed the water and sanitation situation in the area after the flooding disaster that affected the area recently. (*See assessments, Section III*)

(Humanitarian Actors in this Sector are: ICRC, Save the Children US, MSF Switzerland, GOAL, Mercy Corps, two local partners, Ministry of Health and UNICEF as sector lead)

Food Aid (from WFP)

- An inter-agency assessment team comprising WFP, World Vision International (WVI) and SSRRC carried out a food security assessment in Gogrial East County of Warrap State between 8 and 10 August 2008. The aim of the mission was to assess the livelihoods of the Gogrial IDPs and host communities in Liethnom and to establish the extent and the number of food insecure population.
- The findings of the mission to Liethnom indicated a precarious food security situation among the IDPs and host communities. An estimated 200 families, mainly women and children, were seeking refuge in Liethnom market, with 50 percent of the children severely malnourished, according to observations.
- Based on the findings of the assessment, WFP, UNHAS, WVI and SSRRC will combine efforts to plan for airlifting of up to 527mt of food from Wau to Liethnom by buffalo aircraft between 11 and 15 August. The General Food Distribution, which will also include corn-soya-blend (CSB) and sugar, is targeting 30,000 beneficiaries for an initial period of 7 days in Liethnom, Lunyaker and Thiet Thou. This emergency airlift operation will give WFP some time to make arrangements to get authorization for airdrops into Gogrial East County.
- The third round of food distribution was completed for the Abyei IDPs in Wunrok in Warrap State and Abyei area during the reporting week. The distribution that started

in the last week of July and concluded during the reporting week assisted 27,030 IDPs. The IDPs received 440mt of one-month food ration

- Dispatching of food is ongoing in Wunrok in preparation for another round of monthly food rations for the Abyei IDPs scheduled to commence in the third week of August, covering food needs for September.
- WFP distributed non-food items to 14 WFP-supported schools in Akon South and North payams in Warrap State. These included cooking pots, as well as plates for each of the 10,540 school children under the Food for Education (FFE) programme. In Upper Nile, WFP also delivered 3,430 non-food items to 58 schools to enable 42,980 pupils take WFP hot meals in school.

(Humanitarian Actors in this Sector are: World Vision, Save the Children USA, Mercy Corps and WFP as sector lead)

Education (from UNHCR)

- Two schools were rehabilitated by UNHCR and its partner Intersos and were handed over to the local authorities in Bor County, Jonglei State. With this, a total of 4 (out of 5 planned) primary schools have been rehabilitated and handed over to the communities by UNHCR in Jonglei State.

(Humanitarian Actors in this Sector are: UNICEF, GoSS/MoEST, SCF-UK, Norwegian Refugee Council, World Vision, ADRA, Concern, IAS)

III. ASSESSEMENTS AND MISSIONS

- Assessment Report on Cholera outbreak in, Northern Bahr El Ghazal State (NBeGS), Aweil, August 8th – 11th, 2008 – for full report contact Jacqueline Gumbo <jgumbous@yahoo.com>
- WatSan Emergency Response Assessment Report on Aweil, 8 – 11 August 2008 – for full report contact Kees van Bommel <watsan-southsudan@medair.org>

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