



Weekly Bulletin Humanitarian Action in Southern Sudan Week 38, 21 – 27 September 2008

SUMMARY/HIGHLIGHTS

- ✚ Over a thousand people fled eastern DRC into Yambio Country, Southern Sudan since mid September due to alleged LRA attacks.

I. POPULATION MOVEMENTS AND RETURNS

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) (from UNMIS/RRR, OCHA)

- An assessment team composed of UNMIS and some UN humanitarian agencies on 25 September 2008 went to Gok Machar area (Northern Bahr el Ghazal State) to verify numbers of people inhabiting a new camp there and assess the humanitarian implications. Over 5,000 people were reported to have moved into Gok Machar from South Darfour in July. Half of them moved into a new camp created adjacent to one established there before. Previous attempts to assess this situation were made by humanitarian actors since July, but access was denied. Gok Machar is also cut off from road communication due to floods. Only small aircraft can reach the area. More specific details will be made available once the assessment report is out.

Returns & Reintegration (from UNMIS/RRR)

- According to UNMIS, return of displaced civilians to Abyei Town is still very minimal. However, there is a likelihood that numbers will increase once the administration and security are fully established. Appointments of the Administrative Council and Cabinet are still pending.
- The largest group of displaced people requiring humanitarian assistance remains around Agok, about 40km south of Abyei Town. Insecurity resulting from absence of a administration, lack of construction materials and schools, accessibility of farming lands in Agok were mentioned amongst the main push and pull factors prolonging the stay of IDPs in Agok.
- During the period of 19-22 September, 342 households (2,271 individuals) of spontaneous returnees were verified and registered by ADRA in Central Equatoria State (CES). Of these, 75 individuals came by air while 2,196 individuals return by barge. All of the returnees were registered and received WFP food assistance on 26 September.
- In Unity State, a total of 2,291 individuals or 461 households were registered as spontaneous returns in August through the IOM/SSRRC Tracking and Monitoring system. This was in seven counties, namely Rubkona, Leer, Koch, Guit, Mayiendit, Ruweng and Mayom. A household of seven individuals destined to Pariang county who travelled by barge from Juba to Adok arrived to Bentiu from Arua in Uganda through the UNHCR repatriation program.
- There are concerns that during the upcoming dry season, the Misseriya people will be moving southwards into Unity State to look for pastures. Given the Kharasana and Abyei incidents, the likelihood of reprisals cannot be ruled out.

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

Refugees, Returns and Re-integration (from UNHCR)

- An assessment mission on 27 September confirmed that about 1,200 people (386 households) from the Democratic Republic of Congo had sought refuge at a derelict school in Gangura

area, Western Equatoria State (WES) since the last ten days. The people fled attacks by the Ugandan rebel movement Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), which set up bases in the Garamba forest, eastern DR Congo since mid 2008. The LRA is suspected to have attacked Sakure area, some 20 kilometers due west of Gangura in mid September thereby further destabilizing the western fringes of Southern Sudan with DRC in Yambio County.

- SSRRC reported presence of additional refugees and IDPs now in Yambio town but specific numbers are yet to be established. More people are expected to seek refuge in Yambio if the LRA activities in eastern DRC continue.
- The refugees from DRC are currently staying about 14km away from one of the LRA bases and the majority of them are sleeping in the open without any bedding, utensils or other household items. While there is a risk to access the area with humanitarian assistance, failure to provide assistance like food may lead to starvation.
- A clinic operated by MSF Spain in the area is treating many people with injuries from the LRA attacks.
- Local authorities in the area are proposing to relocate the affected people to Li-Rungu, some 15 kilometers north of Yambio. The South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SSRRC) confirmed that Li-Rungu has some facilities like a borehole, toilets and some shelters.
- The SSRRC also has 367 sacks of cereals (roughly 16-17 metric tons) at Li-Rungu, as well as other foodstuffs earmarked by WFP for distribution to spontaneous refugee and IDP returnees. They have other stores in the Yambio area with stockpiles of food.
- UNICEF has some non-food items (NFIs) at its stores in Yambio, which may be distributed to the refugees if UNHCR could reimburse from stores elsewhere.

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

II. SITUATION, NEEDS AND RESPONSE BY SECTOR

Health (from UNICEF)

- Following a confirmed case of wild polio virus detected in Juba County, State National Immunization Days (SNIDs) was implemented in Central Equatoria to reach an estimated 203,000 children under five years with polio vaccine. SNIDs is also underway in Eastern Equatoria, Torit, Lopa/Lafon, Magwi and Kapoeta Counties, targeting 150,000 children under five.
- UNICEF has successfully supported 5 days training on Basic emergency obstetric care in Torit, Eastern Equatoria State (EES) and Lainya in Central Equatoria State (CES) for 12 and 15 nurses/midwives respectively. The training enhanced their skills, which will help reduce unnecessary pregnancy related deaths.
- The Jonglei State Anti-AIDS Youth Association carried out HIV education sessions reaching 1,155 young people; 630 men and 525 women, at a church in Bor town.
- Using GAVI funds, 29 vaccinators were trained in Gogrial West and 35 vaccinators were trained in Tonj South, Warrap State.
- 13 Health workers from Malakal, Fashoda, Ulang and Renk underwent HIV counselors training with key facilitators from MoH-GoSS.

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

Protection (from UNICEF)

- Community social workers in Warrap and NBeG are continuing the process of identification, registration and Family Tracing and Reunification (FTR) for separated/unaccompanied children displaced from Abyei. No new cases were reported during the week.

- To date, UNICEF and the Social Welfare Office for Abyei have registered a cumulative total of 317 vulnerable, separated, unaccompanied or missing children following displacement from Abyei Town in mid-May. Of these 212 have been reunified and 105 are yet to be reunified. These 105 also include newly registered unaccompanied street children in Anet market/Abyei area.

(Humanitarian Actors in this Sector are: UNMIS, UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM, SSRRC/GoSS,)

Nutrition (from UNICEF)

- With support from UNICEF and WFP, Annual Needs and Livelihood Assessment (ANLA) training was conducted in Upper Nile and Unity States for 50 members of the SMoH, SSCNS, SSRRC, ACF, WFP and NGOs. In addition, 32 participants from SMoH, Ministry of Agriculture, Statistics department and SSRRC in Jonglei and Eastern Equatoria State were also trained.
- The Therapeutic Feeding Centre (TFC) at Wau Hospital received 15 cartons plumpy nuts and F-100.
- The one month EmONC training of 27 Health care providers is ongoing. UNICEF gave a presentation on exclusive breastfeeding with posters on breastfeeding distributed to the participants.

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

Water and Sanitation (from UNICEF)

- The Directorate of Rural Water and Sanitation was supplied with borehole spare parts and tool kits. The supplies included three standard tool kits, 5 special tool kits, 10 fast moving kits and 60 pipes and 60 rods for rehabilitation/repair of 20 broken /non-functional boreholes within Juba estimated to benefit 10,000 people.
- Three boreholes were rehabilitated by Rural Water Department of Western Bahr El Ghazal State in Wau County providing 1,500 people with access to safe water.

(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)

- From the time of the Abyei displacements in May to August, the World Food Programme and partners distributed food aid to a cumulative number of about 86,000 with over 1,600MT of food.

AREA	BENEFICIARIES	QUANTITY OF FOOD
Abyei & Agok	47,268	1,125
Twic County	38,716	493
TOTALS	85,984	1,618

- The areas covered under Twic County (Warrap State) included Turalei, Ajakuac, Aweng, Akak, Akoc, Mayem Abun and Wunrok.

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

Food Security and Sustainable Livelihoods (from FAO)

- Throughout the response to the Abyei Crisis (May – September), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) with its partners supported IDPs, returnees and livestock services basic input assistance for agricultural and livestock production. These inputs were distributed to the

beneficiaries through implemented partners like ACAD, NDO, WARDS, SSRRC, CBOs and MOA/Vet Department in Agok and Abyei areas as follows;

- 2,550 households received different varieties of field crop seeds (7.8 Mt of sorghum, 2.37 Mt of sesame and 4.6 Mt of cowpeas).
 - 3,000 households received different varieties of vegetable seeds includes 300 kg of okra, 30 kg of tomato, 150 kg of water melon and 150 kg of pumpkin.
 - 3,500 households received two types of tools (6,000 rakes and 7,500 digging hoes).
 - 800 households received fisheries inputs (twin or spools).
 - 3,000 head of livestock was vaccinated against 3 diseases (HS, BQ and Anthrax) in Abyei area.
 - 20 Community Animal Health Workers received 20 kits of various equipment to facilitate and carry out livestock vaccination and treatment
- The areas / villages that were covered are: Agok, Wauchain, Macbong, Joljoul, Mabong, Abiothok, Leu, Dongop, Tagalyei, Nyinchour, mabok, Awolnum, Wun peeth, Ninjoh, Awal, Achook, Ganga, and Mareil Achok.

(Humanitarian Actors in this Sector are: FAO, ADRA, Mercy Corps, ACROSS, WOTAP)

Education (from UNICEF)

- Following a request from UNHCR, UNICEF is supporting a newly opened school in Teu, Kapoeta East that has been set up by the community and is serving as the only primary school for three surrounding villages. The school has a total of 203 pupils and was issued with one set of textbooks, one set of exercise books, 3 student kits and 3 teacher kits.
- 139 recreation kits for Malakal Zone have arrived and are ready for distribution.

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

III. ASSESSEMENTS AND MISSIONS

- Mission to Western Equatoria to Assess Reported Influx of Congolese Persons Due to LRA Attacks, 27 September 2008.

[For full report contact UNHCR: wordley@unhcr.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