



Weekly Bulletin Humanitarian Action in Southern Sudan Week 41, October 12 - 18, 2008

SUMMARY/HIGHLIGHTS

- ✚ WFP assisted 182,500 beneficiaries with 1,700mt of food during the reporting week
- ✚ Influx of DRC refugees into Western Equatoria reducing
- ✚ Food and NFIs to be distributed to refugees and IDPs in Sakure and Gangura

I. CURRENT ISSUES

Influx of Congolese Persons Due to LRA Attacks, Western Equatoria

- UNHCR is continuing to screen Congolese seeking refugee status in Western Equatoria State. The influx of the Congolese people appears to have reduced drastically and the verification exercise being conducted by UNHCR puts the refugee population to about 3,500 to 4,000 and about 1,000 IDPs in the Sakure area.
- UNHCR and UNOCHA are working closely with other agencies to consolidate a contingency/response plan at Juba and field level.
- WFP has dispatched 40 MT of food to Yambio (sufficient for 2,500 persons for one month – to be stored in UNICEF warehouses) and WVI has begun drilling additional boreholes in the Gangura area.
- Poor road infrastructure is one of the challenges faced by the field team in accessing different locations reported to be hosting refugees. This has been worsened by heavy rainfall which has made most roads in the State impassable.

II. POPULATION MOVEMENTS AND RETURNS

Refugees, Returns and Re-integration (from OCHA EP&R, UNHCR, WFP)

- World Vision has been identified as a partner by UNHCR to distribute food to the refugee community in and around Yambio, Western Equatoria State. A tripartite (WFP, UNHCR & WVI) agreement has been initiated to strengthen the humanitarian response.
- The SSRRC gave a 10-day food ration to the refugees with anticipation that the food from Juba will be delivered on time.
- MSF-Spain continues with health service delivery in Gangura.
- WFP reported that Yambio airport is being worked on in close collaboration with local authorities.
- More response activities towards the refugees are reported under respective sectors below.

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

III. SITUATION, NEEDS AND RESPONSE BY SECTOR

Coordination and Common Services (from OCHA)

- Assessments and response continue in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State (NBeG) following fresh reports of new floods. OCHA is present in Aweil to facilitate humanitarian coordination in response to the floods.
- Quantifying the affected population has been difficult because of limited access to a number of the affected areas, which have become impassable following the recent October flooding. An inter-agency response planning meeting was held on 16 October 2008 to allocate NGOs specific responsibilities and areas to focus on.

- Weekly humanitarian coordination meetings are being held on Thursdays to review progress made on response and as part of information sharing among NGOs, UN and the Government.

(Humanitarian Actors in this Sector are: OCHA, RCO, UNICEF, WFP, SSRRC, UNDSS, UNMIS, UNJLC, IOM)

Health (from UNICEF)

- The SMOH has received drug supplies from GMOH to meet the emergency needs of IDPs and DRC refugees. The drugs were delivered to health centres in Sakure and Gangura with the help of UNMIS. Assistance is needed from sector leads in Juba in the absence of a resident WHO surveillance and UNICEF health personnel.
- MSF-Spain reports that 10 cases of sleeping sickness have been confirmed and the affected refugees are admitted at the civil hospital in Yambio, Western Equatoria State.
- 15 cartons of HIV testing kits and drugs were provided to the State Ministry of Health (SMOH) in Malakal.
- 450 children and 700 women in Jonglei State benefited from routine expanded programme on immunization (EPI) services.
- 200 mosquito nets were provided through UNMIS for children in Juba prison.
- 10 Emergency Response Team (ERT) members participated in a 5-day training course supported by UNICEF and facilitated by the State Ministry of Health (CES) and WHO. The ERT members are expected to provide support to emergency related response in their respective counties.
- 425 people from Juba Teaching Hospital benefited from the distribution of antibiotics and Nevirapine.

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

Protection (from UNICEF)

- From 10 - 12 October, a team of SPLA Child Protection officers, Southern Sudan Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission (SSDDRC) and UNICEF staff carried out sensitization and awareness-raising activities on the issues of releasing children from the SPLA. More than 70 SPLA high ranking officers were targeted in Northern Upper Nile State. The same team is providing awareness raising for SPLA officers in Unity state.
- All 66 children at the Juba Orphanage (43 boys & 23 girls aged 3 to 18) received psychosocial support from the MoSD social worker attached to the orphanage.

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

Nutrition (from RCSO, UNICEF)

- MSF-Spain is monitoring the nutrition status of the refugees in Western Equatoria State and is operating the PHCUs both in Gangura and Sakure.
- In collaboration with the MOH, UNICEF provided the NGO Mission of Charity, Lakes States, with 25 cartons of therapeutic food (plumpy nut) and 25 boxes of BP5.

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

Water and Sanitation (from UNICEF)

- Global hand washing day was celebrated throughout Southern Sudan. Children from schools in all ten states participated in hygiene and sanitation activities in line with the theme – ‘schools and children as agents of behavior change’. The occasion brought together school children, teachers, government ministries, UN agencies, NGOs and private sector representatives.

- In Malakal, 1 borehole was completed by Relief International in Maban County giving access to safe water to 2,000 beneficiaries.
- UNICEF provided Rajaf Catholic Parish School with a set of borehole equipment comprising water tank, pedestal, cylinder, hand pump and 15 pipes and rods. This borehole will cater for 200 children once completed.
- UNICEF, through the SMOPI/DRWSS Jonglei State, has rehabilitated 9 boreholes in Bor County, which will provide 4,500 people with access to potable water.
- UNICEF provided Juba Teaching Hospital with 4 drums of Chlorine Powder for the disinfection of the water supply to ensure safety standards and sterilization of all the equipment and availability of safe water to the patients.
- Three hand pumps were repaired in Yambio town which will benefit 1,500 people.

(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)

- WFP assisted 182,500 beneficiaries with 1,700mt of food in South Sudan during the reporting week.
- Data collection for the 2008/9 ANLA that started across the targeted states at the end of September is expected to be concluded in the coming week in accessible locations. The exercise has been finalized in Northern Bahr el Ghazal, while most other states were collecting data in the final locations.
- An inter-agency assessment team comprising WFP, UNHCR, WVI SSRRC and other UN agencies was in Yambio during the reporting week for a closer and on-ground coordination of interventions for the DRC refugees.
- The teams held advocacy meetings with the refugees and local authorities in Sakure and Gangura, in which distribution of ration cards (registration and verification) was underscored. The exercise will take place on 21 October in both locations while food distribution is scheduled for 22 October to 1,930 refugees in Gangura (1,742) and Sakure (188) locations.
- An assessment team was also in Ukou and James Diko, where a verification and registration exercise is scheduled for 20 October to determine the number of refugees and consequent intervention. The registration and verification of IDPs arising from the LRA attacks will be carried out in all the locations from 21 October.
- Extremely poor road conditions on the road to Yambio have affected the delivery of WFP food for refugees. At one place the road had become blocked due to heavy mud and the Emergency Roads Operation team requested a contractor to go to the site where it was reported that over 100 trucks were stuck. The contractors managed to clear the trucks stuck on the road, and are expected to repair the bad section of the road in the coming week in order to facilitate WFP and other humanitarian interventions in Yambio. Following the clearance, the first WFP truck with 22mt of food arrived Yambio on 18 October. When offloading is complete it will have to return to salvage the load of the second truck which has become stuck in the mud some 50miles from Yambio.
- Warehouse facilities owned by UNICEF and the Catholic Diocese of Yambio and a school in Yambio may be used as temporary storage facilities for the food. Plans are underway to replenish the 10mt of food distributed by SSRRC to 700 refugees in the previous week. The food was pre-positioned in Yambio for returning Sudanese refugees and IDPS.
- Yambio airstrip remained closed to UNHAS aircraft since 11 October and humanitarian workers travel to Nzara airstrip, some 40 minutes drive from Yambio. Efforts are being made to have the airstrip repaired by a construction company.
- The buffalo airlifting the food resumed at the weekend and completed deliveries of 37mt to Pieri in Jonglei State. The airlift targeted nutritional programmes in Motot and Pieri

implemented by WFP partners- Tear Fund and MSF-Holland respectively. The two locations were inaccessible due to heavy rains.

- Air deliveries for a second round of 2-month distributions for Gogrial IDPs are scheduled to commence on 20 October. The aircraft flies to Wau on 20th October to resume airlifts of 956mt of food including food for a planned Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme for malnourished children under the age of 5, targeting the 30,000 IDPs Gogrial IDPs in Liethnom, Lunyaker and Thiek Thou in Warrap State to serve the IDPs until the end of the year.

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

Mine Action (from UNMAO, UNICEF)

- The 2008-9 demining season started this week, with a majority of DPKO-funded mine action assets commencing operations.
- Mine Risk Education (MRE) materials were given to UNMAO to conduct life skill training for 120 teachers in Lakes State. Armour Group has also been conducting community awareness in Gogrial, Warrap state, targeting over 3,000 beneficiaries.
- War Child is conducting the second training on Mine Risk Education for 21 youths selected from youth groups and community child welfare committees.

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

Shelter and Non-Food Items – NFIs (from UNJLC)

The NFI/Emergency Shelter Sector has been allocated US\$230,000 to provide NFIs to the flood-affected populations in Northern Bahr el Ghazal. Verification and registration exercises began on Saturday 18 October across the counties. UNJLC Juba will continue to liaise with County Leads on the ground in order for required resources to be mobilized to the area to meet identified needs. World Vision has distributed about 800 NFI kits to flood affected populations in Aweil South. Christian Solidarity International has 600 Survival Kits (similar to NFI kits) that they will start distributing in either in Gok Machar or Aweil South soon.

World Vision, UNHCR, UNICEF and other partners are planning to distribute plastic sheeting, jerry cans and sleeping mats to meet the most urgent needs of refugees in Yambio. UNICEF has sent 400 NFI kits, 400 kitchen sets and 2,000 plastic sheeting.

(Humanitarian Actors in this Sector are: ACF-USA, Caritas, Concern, CSI-USA, Goal, ICRC, IOM, Mercy Corps, MSF-Swiss, SC-USA, SSRRC, UNICEF, WARDS, WFP, World Vision, and UNJLC as sector lead. For details contact: Thomas.Nyambane@wfp.org)

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