



Weekly Bulletin Humanitarian Action in Southern Sudan Week 42, 19 – 25 October 2008

SUMMARY/HIGHLIGHTS

- ✚ GoSS says 31 people killed by floods in Maban
- ✚ Polio campaign scheduled for end October and November
- ✚ Over 2,300 DR Congo refugees in Western Equatoria State

I. CURRENT ISSUES

Floods in Maban County, Upper Nile State

Floods have affected Maban County on a serious scale during the past week. According to the government (GoSS), excessive river flow from the Ethiopian Highlands has worsened the flooding, which started in the area early last month. The GoSS reported a death toll of 31 people due to the floods.

An inter-agency assessment team involving the UN, NGOs and the Southern Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SSRRC) was deployed to the most affected areas in Maban County on 25 October. The assessment was tasked to verify and register affected people and to deliver some initial humanitarian assistance. A report containing the assessment findings is yet to be produced. However, first impressions confirm the severity of the floods.

Although exact numbers of affected people are not yet established, the magnitude of the floods is said to be similar to the flash-flooding that affected the same area in 1978, which left 7,500 households homeless. The current population of Maban is believed to be 150,000.

Most crop fields have been flooded while safe water supply, sanitation and hygiene are in a bad state. The area is only accessible by small aircraft and there are three landable airstrips namely; Dorro, Liang and Nshowa.

Urgent priority needs for the affected population are food aid, emergency shelter, medicines and water purification tablets.

Already the Ministry of Health and UNICEF delivered medical supplies on 20th October. More medical supplies (500KG) and some water purification tablets were dispatched on 22nd October. At least three NGOs were already working in the area namely; CAFOD, Relief International and Saving in Vision and they are assisting with the initial response.

At the beginning of September, 400 households were affected by floods in Maban and 311 of them received humanitarian assistance. However, interventions were interrupted by the collapse of the Jamaam Bridge along the Melut – Maban road.

Polio Campaigns planned for end October and November

After four years of being polio-free, Southern Sudan recorded six confirmed cases of the disease that crippled the affected children, UNICEF says. Repeated vaccination efforts are needed to contain the viral disease.

Following an appeal from the MoH, WHO and UNICEF will collaborate with the GoSS to carry out Polio vaccination campaigns from October 27th – 29th and November 24th – 26th. All children under five years of age will be vaccinated. Vaccination teams will visit house to house giving

children polio drops. After receiving the vaccine, the child will be marked on the finger with black ink to know he/she has received the vaccine.

You can help fight Polio! - If you see a child who is unable to walk on his/her own or cannot use her upper or lower limbs, it is essential to check up with a doctor for polio. You can report details immediately to a health worker closest to you on phone number 0122353721.

II. POPULATION MOVEMENTS AND RETURNS

Returns & Reintegration (from UNMIS/RRR)

- An interagency mission visited Baidit Payam (Bor County) in Jonglei State from 17 to 19 October to assess the flood situation. Since January to date, 20,520 returnees were able to return to Bor County, the majority of whom settled in Baidit Payam. Spontaneous returnees verified in Bor County in September and October 2008 who intended to go to Baidit Payam, Jalle Payam and Twic County are now unable to do so as 15km of road south of Baidit is under flood waters. According to the assessment team, the health situation is very poor while the food situation is seriously affecting the villages of Manyideng, Tong, Makolcui and Akayic. The loss of large numbers of cattle has seriously damaged livelihoods while the grazing land is still submerged in water. A quick intervention from the agencies dealing with veterinary programmes and from the Government is needed. On 23 October a task force committee chaired by UNMIS/RRR and UNRSCO was formed to co-ordinate a follow-up intervention. WFP, FAO, and IOM have already agreed to assist the 7,470 persons who were affected in various ways.

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

Refugees, Returns and Re-integration (from UNHCR)

- The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) has completed verification of numbers of DR Congo refugees in Sakure, Gangura and Ukou in Western Equatoria State. Up to 2,316 refugees are in the area contrary to initial estimates of 3,500 – 4,000.
- Updated statistics of refugees as at 26/10/2008 - Verified individuals and households

Age: 0-4		Age: 5-17		Age: 18-59		Age: 60+		Persons	HH	Locations
Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female			
20	15	31	21	40	54	5	2	188	69	Sakure
145	150	237	253	455	456	20	26	1742	763	Gangura
35	40	58	69	80	90	6	8	386	110	Ukou
Grand Total								2316	942	

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

III. SITUATION, NEEDS AND RESPONSE BY SECTOR

Common Services and Coordination (from UNJLC, UNOCHA)

- In keeping with their mandate for logistics coordination, UNJLC participated in a joint assessment mission to Wunrock to assess road conditions and the status of the Wunrock bridge rehabilitation. The team reported that the Wau - Wunrock corridor is closed due to flooding 5km South of Wunrock. The bridge is expected to be operational by the end of January. A follow-up mission, including representatives from the Ministry of Transport & Roads, is planned for next week to make recommendations on how best to re-open the corridor.

- On 22 October, UNJLC initiated the GIS Partners Meeting, a meeting designed to share relevant GIS data, avoid duplication of GIS activities and act as a regular coordination forum. Fifteen organizations participated, including UN agencies, NGOs and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Meeting minutes will be distributed to all attendees for feedback shortly.
- For further information on logistics common services and coordination, please email UNJLC Juba at unjlc.juba@unjlc.org.

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

Health (from UNICEF)

- Weekly polio surveillance activities are on-going in Central and Eastern Equatoria States (CES and EES). A case of wild polio virus has been detected in Northern Bari Payam of CES.
- 4,500 mosquito nets, 6 Primary Health Care Unit kits and malaria drugs were delivered to SMOH/CE for distribution to children U-5 and pregnant women in the 6 Counties of CES, which will help reduce the increasing prevalence of malaria in the state;
- Rehabilitation work on the central cold chain in Torit is on-going and will create more storage and office space for the vaccines/accessories once completed.
- Preparation for the State National Immunization Days (SNIDs) for the four states of Greater Bahr El Ghazal has been finalized, with social mobilization activities on going.
- UNICEF has provided the NGO Malaria Consortium with malaria treatment for children and adults - ORS, ferrous sulphate, 50 stethoscopes, 50 blood pressure cuffs, 75 thermometers and 25 infant spring scales.
- 1,000 mosquito nets were provided to the SMOH Upper Nile to be distributed to children under age 5 and pregnant women in Obiel Community.
- 861 children aged 6 months -15 years in Jinmagda Payam of Maban County were vaccinated against measles.
- 2 cold-chain fridges have been sent to Maban SMOH to support the routine immunization programme.

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

Protection (from UNICEF)

- An emergency preparedness plan has been drafted for Jonglei State following a 2-day EPRP workshop attended by 29 government officials and partners that was carried out in Bor.
- 45 children at Juba prison (43 boys & 2 girls) between the ages of 10 and 15 continue to receive psychosocial support provided by one of the government social workers who completed the UNICEF supported social work training at Juba University.

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

Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (from UNICEF)

- A joint mission to Mapel military barracks (WBeG) by the Southern Sudan Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission (SSDDRC), UNICEF and UNMIS was carried out in order to sensitize the SPLA on the child DDR programme. More than 100 SPLA officers were targeted. Child DDR Officers from SSDDRC will start the verification of presence of Children Associated with Armed Forces and Groups (CAAFG) in Mapel in the coming days
- Child DDR teams made up of SSDDRC, SPLA Child Protection Unit and UNICEF carried out sensitization and awareness raising activities for SPLA Officers in Unity state to help ensure that military barracks are free of children. Up to 86 children were identified, verified and registered.

- Sensitization of Duar SPLA HQs was carried out and the senior SPLA officers have agreed to release children. Up to 23 children were registered and verified and are awaiting demobilization.

(Humanitarian Actors in this Sector are: SSDDRC, UNICEF, UNMIS, UNDP)

Nutrition (from UNICEF)

- Supported by UNICEF and coordinated by UNMIS, 24 children continue to benefit from growth monitoring and nutritional support in state prisons. A further 122 children have benefited from growth monitoring and nutrition supplies in the areas affected by flooding in Baidit Payam (Bor County).
- 300 cartons of plumpy nut therapeutic food, 300 cartons of BP-5 supplementary food and 10 cartons of F-100 have been sent to Boma, Jonglei State, to support both community and facility based therapeutic services. 200 cartons of plumpy nut and 100 cartons of F-100 were sent to ACF-USA Warrap State.
- Malakal and Renk TFCs received 50 cartons plumpy nut, 20 cartons F100, 20 cartons F75, and 20 cartons BP5 biscuits. 20 cartons of soap were also distributed.

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

Water and Sanitation (from UNICEF)

- UNICEF provided hand pump spare parts for 7 water points in Yambio and Nzara counties that were repaired by DRWSS thereby re-establishing access to safe water for 3,500 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)

Mine Action (from UNMAO, UNICEF)

- UNMAO and the Ministry of Education ran the second in a series of 5 training of teachers this week. Staff in Rumbek area schools were trained on how to deliver mine risk education to pupils as part of an initiative to have MRE incorporated into the education curriculum. The project was funded by the European Commission.
- Peer educator training on MRE is ongoing for children and teachers in Kuajok, Warrap State and is being carried out by Mine Advisory Group (MAG). Since 11 October, MAG have trained 109 children peer educators who in turn were able to provide a further 1,016 children with MRE information.

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

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

- Flood response activities in Aweil are ongoing. Verification of households affected by the flooding continues with an inter-agency mission to Tieraliet planned to verify needs in Aweil South, where access has been a major constraint. DCV and Concern will distribute the non-food items and emergency shelter to the affected households when verifications are complete. Blankets, jerry cans, buckets and plastic sheeting are being dispatched from the NFI Common Pipeline in North Sudan and are expected to arrive in Aweil within the next two weeks. These stocks will be supplemented with additional items from sector partners prior to distribution.
- In collaboration with OCHA EP&R and Sector Partners, UNJLC has developed an NFI response plan to assist refugees from DRC and IDPs in Western Equatoria. Verifications are ongoing and distributions of NFIs, donated by UNICEF, began in Sakure and Gangura last week.
- 495 NFI kits were delivered to SSRRC for the LRA victims in Ezo County benefiting over 2,000 children and women.

- Through SSRRC, 263 NFI kits, 121 kitchen sets and 526 mosquito nets were delivered to UNHCR/WVI to be distributed to 1,500 Congolese refugees and IDPs in Sakure and Gangura villages;

(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)

IV. ASSESSEMENTS AND MISSIONS

- Aerial Assessment report along the Sobat and Eastern Corridor has been produced.
[To obtain report please contact: koang.rambang@undp.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