



Humanitarian Action in Southern Sudan Report Week 04, 19 – 25 January 2009

SUMMARY/HIGHLIGHTS

- ✚ Evolution of the LRA related humanitarian emergency in the Equatorias
- ✚ About 10,000 people lost shelter, food to fire in Nayapuru, Jonglei State
- ✚ WFP dispatching food for 41,000 IDPs in Western and Central Equatoria States

I. FOCUS ON SECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

Humanitarian Access to LRA Affected Areas

Safe and secure access to the areas affected by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels for both assessments and relief response remain a major problem. The UN system has increased security measures to help ensure staff security. UNDSS has declared that armed escorts are mandatory for UN agency entry into LRA affected areas. Efforts are being made to ensure that escorts are obtained on good time from UNMIS or SPLA. Timely and affordable escorts will go a long way to ensure rapid assessments and delivery of the much needed humanitarian relief.

Changing Community Reaction

LRA attacks have been ongoing for over 24 years in the region. Lately, affected communities in Southern Sudan are said to have employed some self-defense tactics. For example, groups of youths are staying behind in villages and arming themselves with traditional weapons to fight LRA rebels. Furthermore, the LRA are reportedly changing tact by moving in small groups of average five to ten people and arming themselves with knives or spears while using small arms and modern weapons to a lesser extent. The LRA are also known for withdrawing to recuperate and re-arm before they resurface. Prolonged fighting will likely mean a growing and deteriorating situation with large numbers of displaced people in need of continued humanitarian assistance.

[SOURCES: SSRRC, OCHA EP&R, UNHCR, UNMIS]

II. CURRENT ISSUES

United Nations Agencies and NGOs Respond to WES Governor's Humanitarian Appeal

The Governor of Western Equatoria State on 19 January issued an appeal for humanitarian assistance to people displaced by the Uganda rebel Lord's Resistance Army attacks in seven counties namely, Mundri West, Yambio, Maridi, Nzara, Ibba, Ezo and Tambura. The appeal also requested for assistance to people displaced by tribal conflict in Mvolo County.

In response, an inter-agency core-group chaired by OCHA met in Juba on 23 January to address issues related to the Western Equatoria humanitarian emergency. The core-group was formed by the Inter-Agency Emergency Preparedness and Response Taskforce meeting of 22 January primarily to secure security

escorts and humanitarian access, identify actual IDP locations and figures as well as to engage the State Governor, SSRRC, WFP and other partners in order to expedite the delivery of food and non-food items to needy IDPs. Following that meeting, the Governor of Western Equatoria State secured the commitment of SPLA to provide escorts and a letter of request from the SSRRC for WFP to provide food to the affected people. The core-group was made up of member from the following organizations: IOM, Oxfam GB, RCSO, SSRRC, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNJLC, UNMIS, WFP and WVI.

No. of IDPs due to LRA Attacks

Western Equatoria State	No. of IDPs
Mundri West*	6,000
Yambio	3011
Maridi	4,046
Nzara	1,032
Ibba	2,150
Ezo	1,931
Tambura	1,647
Total	19,817
Central Equatoria State	
Lainya	2,474
Yei	236
Total	2,710
Total displaced by LRA:	22,527

In addition to the above IDPs the Governor noted that there are about 7,640 individuals displaced in Mvolo as a result of inter-tribal conflict between the Dinka Agar and Jur in Mvolo (Western Equatoria) as well as in Wullu Payam, in Lakes State. This brings the total number of IDPs to **30,167**.

OCHA has done gap analysis on this humanitarian emergency. A copy of the document may be requested from kahwa@un.org.

More details are also available from the OCHA EP&R Unit's Humanitarian Situation and Monitoring Matrix that can be obtained from dunlop@un.org.

Fire Destroys Shelter and Food for About 10,000 People in Nayapuru, Jonglei State

A fire outbreak that lasted four hours destroyed houses and food stocks in Nayapuru village, Jonglei State on 20 January. The fire was reportedly started by a child while playing and was fuelled by grass on the immediate surroundings and on the houses as well as the prevailing windy weather. Nayapuru was also a

densely populated area with about 7,000 – 10,000 people and most homes crowded together. The entire population is reportedly affected and in need of food, shelter, NFIs and medical supplies. Humanitarian agencies are planning for an urgent assessment.

[SOURCES: SSRRC-WES, Merlin, OCHA, Inter-Agency Assessments]

III. POPULATION MOVEMENTS

Refugees Influx from DR Congo to Western Equatoria State (WES)

- By the end of 2008, 5,742 Congolese fleeing LRA attacks in the DRC had sought refuge in Western Equatoria State, with the highest concentration of them being hosted in Gangura, Yambio Town and Sakure. In mid-September 2008, LRA attacks in north-eastern DRC caused a steady flow of refugees into Southern Sudan. The attacks, which followed four failed peace initiatives in 2008, were consistent with the LRA fight-talk-fight kind of strategy. Since the joint military attack on the LRA by Ugandan, SPLA and DR Congo forces in mid-December, subsequent LRA attacks caused increased refugee influx. UNHCR reports that an estimated 2,000 refugees arrived in Ezo County during the first two weeks of January 2009. This brought the cumulative total number of refugees into WES to over 7,000. UNHCR is conducting verification exercises of the new arrivals.
- UNHCR and government authorities identified a site in Makpandu, 58km from the border, to relocate the refugee caseload. Continued LRA attacks slowed down the refugee relocation process as security consideration caused refugee reluctance to move to the new site. For instance, LRA attacks on Nabiapai village located 11 kilometres from Gangura caused UNHCR to temporarily suspend the refugee relocation from 26th December until 5th January 2009. As of 20 January 2009, 515 persons had moved to Makpandu site.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

- A cumulative total of 22,527 people were displaced by the LRA attacks in Southern Sudan, which intensified in mid-December 2008. Of these, 19,817 people are in Western Equatoria State, according to the Governor of the State, who met with humanitarian agencies in Juba on 23rd of January. In neighbouring Central Equatoria State, the Southern Sudan Relief and

Rehabilitation Commission (SSRRC) indicates that LRA has displaced 2,710 people. More than 120 people have been killed since mid-December. The attacks have continued to destabilize these areas, displacing civilians or rendering them destitute through looting. The LRA has abducted more than 60 people and in a shift from previous trends, is now killing most abductees according to local government officials.

- Elsewhere in Southern Sudan, there are increasing reports of inter-clan/tribal fights causing displacement of civilians, mostly women and children and in some cases death, injury and destruction of wealth. Early into the pastoral migratory season, the numbers of incidents and affected people as well as humanitarian needs, already point to a situation that has potential to be worse than last year, according to the humanitarian community. About 25,293 people have been displaced within the last 30 days in the following areas; Mvolo, Western Equatoria State (6,000), Wulu, Lakes State (5,450), Nyirol, Jonglei State (7,518) and Malakal, Upper Nile State (6,225). OCHA and partners are closely monitoring this evolving humanitarian situation and needs assessments are ongoing in many areas.

[SOURCES: OCHA EP&R, SSRRC, Inter-Agency Assessments]

IV. SITUATION, NEEDS AND RESPONSE BY SECTOR

Common Services and Coordination

- UN agencies, INGO and the GoSS local and federal entities have stepped up monitoring and assessment missions to help ensure more of a rapid humanitarian response to the affected communities. Refugees and IDPs in the areas adjacent to the border have been assisted since mid-September with food and non-food items. Some major assessments have been completed in the past week as shown under the section V of this report. Agencies are initiating emergency responses to assist the recent IDPs with food and non-food items.
- During the past week, UNJLC facilitated the movement of 1.8 tons of cargo for Medair, Merlin, MSF-F, WFP and the MOPA utilizing the spare capacity of UNHAS and UNDSS aircraft.
- Due to increased demand, UNJLC and UNHAS initiated discussions with partners regarding the possibility of bringing an aircraft to Juba that would be dedicated solely to cargo flights. The aircraft would be tasked to fly 80 hours per month and the service would be provided on a cost-recovery basis. Agencies that are interested in the service are encouraged to provide cargo projections to UNJLC Juba as soon as possible. With questions and cargo projections, please contact sudan.juba@unjlc.org.

[SOURCES: OCHA EP&R, UNJLC]

Disease Outbreaks

- *Measles*: has been reported in Awerial, Northern Bahr el Ghazal State in the following payams: Minkaman, Door and Magok. Week 1 had 48 cases and 18 deaths, no reports were collected in Week 2 while 12 cases and 5 deaths were reported in Week 3. The Ministry of Health has been supervising a measles vaccination campaign to be completed in the affected payams on 28th January.
- *AWD/Cholera*: a total of 677 cases of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) with 4 deaths were reported during Week 3. The majority cases were from Jonglei State and investigations are under way.
- *Meningitis*: an alert has been issued for suspected Meningitis in Riwoto, Kapoeta North County with 17 cases and 5 deaths being reported. An investigation team from MoH and WHO is on the ground and will bring out more information in due course. Yei hospital also reported 11 cases of Meningitis and Medair is assessing the situation. The outbreak of Meningitis in Adjumani district of Uganda is reportedly spreading west and southwards to the districts of Arua and Masindi. These two areas have large numbers of Sudanese refugees scheduled for repatriation in the next few weeks. UNHCR and other authorities have suspended the repatriation exercise until after a mass vaccination is completed. Currently

there are 500,000 doses of meningitis vaccines in stock with UNICEF. These may be sufficient for mass vaccinations in along the border areas but up to 2,5 million doses may be required although the disease situation is not yet acute.

- *Polio*: from 29th January a high level delegation from WHO, UNICEF, CDC and GoSS will be visiting all the 10 state in Southern Sudan to look at gaps and what needs to be done. This follows a report of one case of polio in Maridi during 2008. Southern Sudan is not yet polio free alongside other African countries like Nigeria, Central Africa Republic, Ethiopia and Chad.
- *Malaria*: 1,556 cases and no deaths were reported in week 3.
- *Acute Bloody Diarrhoea*: 260 cases and no deaths

[SOURCES: MOH, WHO, Medair]

Health

- WHO donated three Interagency Emergency Health Kits (1 kit is sufficient to support 10,000 people during a three months period). Mundri, Yambio & Maridi Counties of Western Equatoria State were given one each to assist IDPs affected by the LRA attacks.

[SOURCE: WHO]

Food Aid

- WFP plans to dispatch some 480mt of food to areas affected by the LRA insurgence in Central and Western Equatoria from 26 January. The amount of food targets an estimated 41,000 IDPs and refugees in the two states, according to the SSRRC. The UNHCR was carrying out verification.
- The first consignment of food was scheduled for dispatch and consequent distributions to 5,140 beneficiaries in Lainya, Tore and Lasu from 27 January, once armed escort is guaranteed and security clearance was granted. These beneficiaries include 2,000 refugees who fled from Aba in DRC to Lasu since 22 January, and verified by UNHCR on 24 January.
- WFP assisted 37,670 beneficiaries with 620mt of food during the reporting week. These included 1,160 children under the age of five who received a one-month food ration under an ongoing Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme in Aweil East in Northern Bahr el Ghazal. At the same time, the WFP partner implementing the programme, WVI, assisted 1,700 beneficiaries in the BSFP households with 28mt of one-month food rations through GFD to ensure the BSFP was not shared as family rations. The programme targets 5,000 Gogrial IDP children in the county.
- WFP made arrangements to assist an estimated 10,000 residents of Nayapuru location in Boma County in Jonglei State in the coming week, following a fire incident in which the residents lost their property, including food stocks. The SSRRC was collaborating with WFP and other agencies to provide the rapid intervention once a planned verification exercise is accomplished.

[SOURCE: WFP]

Non-Food Items (NFIs) & Emergency Shelter

- *Upper Nile*: On 19 January, 150 NFI kits were distributed by WVS to conflict-affected IDPs in Abanim (Fashoda County) following a joint needs assessment on 16 January.
- *Northern Bahr el Ghazal*: Last week, Concern completed household verifications of flood-affected communities in Aweil North County. In total, 945 households were registered in Ariath and Mayen Uleum payams, to whom Concern will distribute UAE-funded NFIs, supplemented by their own stocks. Preparations have begun and it is expected that distributions will be complete by next week. In total of 5,800 flood-affected households will be supported by Sector partners in Northern Bahr el Ghazal and distributions will continue as access opens up.
- *Central and Western Equatoria*: Sector partners are working in close collaboration with OCHA EP&R-led assessment teams to determine NFI requirements in regions of Central and

Western Equatoria affected by LRA fighting. Once final figures are established, UNICEF and IOM will provide NFIs for affected households. A distribution partner is currently under identification.

[SOURCES: UNJLC]

Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration

- NTSR.

[SOURCES:]

Nutrition

- NTSR

[SOURCES:]

Water and Sanitation

- NTSR

[SOURCES:]

Food Security and Sustainable Livelihoods

- NTSR

[SOURCES:]

Education

- NTSR

[SOURCES:]

Mine Action

- NTSR

[SOURCES:]

V. ASSESSEMENTS AND MISSIONS

- During the reporting week, inter-agency assessments were completed in Western Equatoria counties namely, Maridi (Mburoko, Nakuwa, Gbutala) and Yambio (Gangura). Assessment reports may be obtained from OCHA EP&R – dianga@un.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