



Humanitarian Action in Southern Sudan Report Week 10, 02 – 08 March 2009

SUMMARY/HIGHLIGHTS

- ✚ Tribal fighting in Pibor, Jonglei State causes 100 casualties, 150 wounded and scores abducted, say GoSS Authorities.
- ✚ Expulsion of NGOs from the North has minimal effect on the South so far, NGO Secretariat.
- ✚ General situation normalizing in Malakal but security concerns remain worrisome, OCHA.
- ✚ 12,053 refugees returned to Southern Sudan since January 2009, UNHCR.

I. FOCUS ON SECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

- The general situation in Malakal is reported to be stabilizing, at least with regards to return of a few hundreds of IDPs and resumption of normal business operations following military fighting on 24/25th February and 4/5th March. Aerial and overland field assessments led by OCHA have also confirmed the return of IDPs to Malakal town and their homes. However, military presence has been maintained. Resumption of normal NGO operations will depend on improvement in the security situation, although many affected NGOs are keen to return to the area. Some NGO compounds in Malakal have Unexploded Ordinances (UXOs) that need to be cleared
- UNMIS TCC has deployed soldiers to patrol and guard warehouses following looting of six bags of pulses from the WFP warehouse on 07th March.

[OCHA]

II. CURRENT ISSUES

Expulsion of NGOs from Darfur and Transitional Areas

- The expulsion of 13 international and three (3) NGOs from Darfur and the transitional areas following the issuance of an arrest warrant against Sudanese President by the International Criminal Court (ICC) has not had an immediate effect on humanitarian operations in Southern Sudan. However, some NGO operations in the three transitional areas are reportedly being affected, according to the NGO secretariat in Southern Sudan. The transitional areas namely; Abyei, Blue Nile and South Kordofan are administered by both the National Congress Party (NCP) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) in line with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). Senior Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) authorities have made public pronouncements assuring NGOs in the South of continued support and nullifying the banning of NGOs in the transitional areas. However, the official communication to this effect has not been obtained by concerned parties including the UN.

Tribal Fighting in Pibor County, Jonglei State

- Two tribes are reportedly fighting in Pibor County, Jonglei State following retaliation against past incidents by one of them. The worst fighting is said to be happening in or near Le-kuangole Payam. Unspecified numbers of civilians have fled to the relative safety of Pibor Township
- Pibor Commissioner confirmed 10 March that the attacks began on the 5th of March 2009 as previously reported to OCHA Juba by RCSO Malakal and are still ongoing.
- OCHA received reports that 100 people were killed while 150 people were wounded. An unconfirmed number of children and women were abducted. Over 2,000 cattle are said to have been raided. Fighting is also reported in Kuongkuong and allegedly advancing to Boma.

[GoSS Local Officials, UNMIS, RCSO & OCHA]

III. POPULATION MOVEMENTS

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

- OCHA estimates that there are over 36,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) affected by LRA attacks in Western and Central Equatoria States as confirmed by inter-agency assessments early last month. Disturbances by the LRA continue and these numbers are feared to be increasing. Humanitarian needs keep increasing while response continues.

[OCHA]

Refugees, Returns and Re-integration

- As of 07th March 2009 the repatriation of Sudanese refugees to Southern Sudan and Blue Nile State reached a cumulative total of 308,248. Of these, 151,418 returned under the organized and assisted self-repatriation programme.
- Between 01st January and 07th March 2009 the total number of persons returned through organized means supported by UNHCR was 12,053. Out of this number, 11,860 persons (98%) were organized and 193 persons (2%) were under the assisted self-repatriation programme.
- Regarding the refugee influx into Western and Central Equatoria, UNHCR estimates that as many as 20,000 refugees have crossed the border from DR Congo. The death toll has reportedly risen to 146 people while 84 people have been abducted. Preparations are also underway for a new refugee site in Nyori, Central Equatoria State. UNHCR, OCHA and RCSO are coordinating the response through assessments, gap analysis, coordination meetings and humanitarian reporting.
- Due to worsening insecurity, some roads in Yei, Central Equatoria State (CES) have been raised to security Level 3, which has led to temporary suspension of returns operations. Southern Sudan is in general security Phase 3.
- The return operation in Malakal has been affected by recent developments there, which led to clashes between the JIU/SAF and the SPLA.
- The integration aspect of the returns operation is not progressing well due to funding constraints.

[UNHCR, OCHA]

IV. SITUATION, NEEDS AND RESPONSE BY SECTOR

Common Services and Coordination

- OCHA, RCSO and UNJLC are coordinating humanitarian situation monitoring, assessments and reporting following conflict in Malakal between the 24th February and 05th March.

[OCHA, RCSO, UNJLC]

Disease Outbreaks

- *Meningitis* - According to MSF Switzerland, meningitis vaccination was completed in Kapoeta North and South, Eastern Equatoria State. The health team could not cover areas infested with landmines as well as cattle camps. Approximately 65,000 people were vaccinated. In Kapoeta East, Narus payam 9,520 people were vaccinated. Medair and ADRA are still carrying out vaccination in Budi County, out of the seven payams, 5 payams were reached and a total of 24,384 people were vaccinated. However, two payams can not be accessed easily.
- *Acute Watery/Blood Diarrhea* outbreak has been reported in Tialiet Payam, Aweil South County and so far 10 adults and children have died. The affected Payams and villages include Nyieth, Ayai, Relengok and Eriakriak. A WHO epidemiologist has been dispatched to investigate the reported AWD outbreak and five stool specimens have been collected and sent to AMREF laboratory in Nairobi for further investigation and culture. MSF France has been treating cases of AWD/cholera in Peth Aweil East County, a total of 144 cases were seen from week 7 to 10, and currently the situation is said to be under control.

[MSF, Medair]

Health

- Polio National Immunization Days (NIDs) started in Raja Country, Western Bahr el-Ghazal State on 5th March. The immunization was delayed due to the problems with the cold chain system.
- One case of Guinea Worm was found in Gama village Raja County by a team from State Ministry of Health (SMoH) and UNICEF that was headed by H.E. Minister of Health WBEG State. According to the local people there are other cases scattered in the village. MoH will inform the Guinea Worm eradication programme in Wau to follow up on the case.

[UNICEF]

Nutrition

- Wau Therapeutic Feeding Center (TFC) has 8 severely malnourished children admitted, four of them have severe anemia with generalized edema.

[UNICEF]

Food Aid

- Three men (one armed) in military attire broke into a WFP rubhall in Malakal and took away six bags of pulses on 07 March. WFP, UN Regional Coordination Office and local authorities held consultations after the incident, and consequently provided armed security to WFP rubhalls. WFP holds some 2,584mt of food in its 8 rubhalls in Malakal. WFP also lost three motorcycles and two bicycles when the conflict initially broke out.
- WFP assisted 29,750 beneficiaries with 486mt of food in South Sudan during the reporting week. These included 4,244 IDPs in Lakes assisted with 70mt of food during the week following an inter-agency verification exercise in Wulu County. The IDPs were displaced by an inter-tribal conflict between Jur Belle and Dinka Agar tribes in the County in January 2009. So far, WFP has assisted 15,850 IDPs from the inter-tribal conflict with 570mt of food.
- WFP also assisted 4,620 LRA-affected IDPs in Maridi town and Buagyi payam in Mundri East in Western Equatoria under armed escort. Despite the armed escort, planned distributions in Lasu and Otego in Central Equatoria for 5,635 Congolese refugees could not be implemented due to LRA related insecurity incidents in the previous week which resulted in four fatalities. The distribution will be re-scheduled when the security situation permits.
- The inter-agency team also carried out a needs assessment at the UNHCR refugee's way station in Malakal on 06 March. The 130 Anuak refugees from Ethiopia were reported as requiring food assistance among other needs. UNMIS and UNHCR were determining the necessary food and non-food interventions.
- Some 1,775 organized returnees in Magwi County in Eastern Equatoria were assisted with 86mt of three-month food rations during the reporting week. The returnees were repatriated by UNHCR in December 2008 from Uganda. An inter-agency assessment carried out from 21-23 January 2009 recommended a second three-month food assistance in a multi-sectoral intervention, after the returnees crops were affected by a dry spell and nomadic cattle in January 2009. The report also recommended inclusion of all schools and hospital in the county in the WFP school feeding and nutritional support programmes. Magwi County is a high return area, with an estimated 80,300 returnee population since 2005, and also affected by long dry spells and less than average rains.
- WFP donated 2,940 non-food items to six schools under the school feeding programme in Magwi County in Eastern Equatoria. The NFIs are meant to enable 2,000 school children benefit from WFP's hot meals in school.

[WFP]

Non-Food Items (NFIs) & Emergency Shelter

- An inter-agency assessment team comprised of UNHCR, WFP and WVI identified 800 households requiring NFI support in Ezo Town, Western Equatoria State. The households

were displaced by LRA attacks. IOM will send NFI kits to Wau for distribution by WVI shortly. A further 564 IDP households are in Andare and 1,151 in Naandi, Ezo County. Household verification is currently ongoing and UNHCR, WFP and WVI will carry out assessments in Andare and Naandi next week, as will ICRC in Ezo Town.

- Approximately 1,090 households in Mvolo and 1,138 households in Wullu were also displaced and in need of NFI assistance. RCSO carried out an assessment in February and results will be distributed to the humanitarian community shortly.
- UNJLC participated in the OCHA-led mission to Malakal between 27 February and 3 March following to gain an overview of NFI stock losses and to work with partners to identify affected populations following the recent fighting. Warehouse stock information has been updated. As yet, official numbers on households affected by the conflict are unconfirmed. Currently, a UNJLC EP&R Officer is on the ground in Malakal to monitor the situation.
- Further information on the NFI & ES Sector can be obtained by visiting UNJLC's website at www.unjlc.org/sudan or by e-mailing unjlc.juba@unjlc.org.

[UNJLC]

Water and Sanitation

- An additional borehole is needed in Makpandu since there are only two boreholes servicing the 900 refugees already relocated to the site there.
- Health services are scarce due to shortages of staff and drugs. World Vision and UNHCR are working towards addressing the health needs and are inviting NGOs in the health sector to come on board.

[UNICEF]

Protection

- The Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) with support from UNICEF conducted a two-day training workshop on separated and unaccompanied minors for 25 participants (13 females and 12 males). The participants were brought from the MoSD social workers, community based organizations (CBOs), Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) and NGOs. A field work was conducted to enable the participants to understand how to fill the registration forms.

[UNICEF]

Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration

- The numbers of children escaping from LRA have increased to 12 children (6 Congolese and 6 Sudanese). Two of the Sudanese children from WES have been reunified with their families. Three former LRA children from CES/EES have been booked to fly back to Juba and be reunified with their families.
- Total number of the Congolese separated children under the care of ICRC/SRCS, with UNICEF support, were 43 children after three of them were reunified with their extended families and another five escaped from the center.

[UNICEF]

Education

- 14,444 girls and 27,050 girls in 201 schools have benefitted from distribution of educational materials in Kapoeta and Budi Counties (Eastern Equatoria State), Lainya County (Central Equatoria State) and Ibba County (Western Equatoria State).

[UNICEF]

V. ASSESSEMENTS AND MISSIONS

- NSTR

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