



Humanitarian Action in Southern Sudan Report Week 11, 09 – 15 March 2009

SUMMARY/HIGHLIGHTS

- ✚ Pibor fighting kills 453 and displaces 5,000 people
- ✚ Malakal update
- ✚ Humanitarian situation worsens due to LRA attacks

I. FOCUS ON SECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

- **Pibor fighting:** Intense fighting between two tribes in Le-Kuangole Payam, Pibor County, Jonglei State from 5th to 8th March 2009 left 453 people killed, 150 wounded, 200 children and women abducted and more than 5,000 displaced. The displaced people congregated in Pibor Town and are without shelter. MSF-Belgium is providing primary health care services. UNICEF has released 500 NFI kits, which IOM will transport to Pibor. In addition, UNICEF deployed staff to work on water, sanitation and hygiene as well as child protection. WFP is working towards meeting some food needs from the Bor sub-office.
[OCHA]
- **Looting:** A spate of incidents involving looting of relief items were reported during the fighting in Malakal at the end of February and beginning of March. VSF Germany for instance lost an assortment of veterinary drugs, equipment, beds, beddings, water and fuel drums, kitchen utensils, water filters, ceramic candles, quick run bags as well as personal assets belonging to staff.

[OCHA, VSF Germany]

II. CURRENT ISSUES

Malakal update – Upper Nile State

The Resident Coordinator's Support Office in Southern Sudan (RCSO) reports that people had been displaced mainly north of Malakal Town due to fighting at the end of February and have largely returned to their homes. State authorities are said to have assured them of calm and stability in the town and its surroundings. The IDPs had feared a potential backlash following issuance of the International Criminal Court (ICC)'s arrest warrant against the Sudanese President. However, no major incidents followed this development.

On the whole, Malakal is said to be relatively calm though the security situation remains unpredictable. The aftermath of the ICC decision remains a potential risk. Humanitarian operations have not returned to normal.

Based on security advice from UNDSS, humanitarian agencies have been requested to provide names of very essential staff that could resume work in Malakal during the next week once Unexploded Ordinances (UXOs) have been surveyed and cleared.

[RCSO, UNICEF]

Humanitarian situation worsens as LRA attacks continue

UNHCR this week reported that the three major refugee influx areas Ezo and Yambio (in Western Equatoria State - WES) and Lasu (in Central Equatoria State - CES) now hold a total figure of 16,605 registered refugees. About 35% of the refugees are in Central Equatoria State. OCHA led inter-agency assessments in February confirmed over 36,000 IDPs scattered in both states. The death toll is estimated at 146 people while 84 people have been abducted. The Makpandu refugee site is now home to 1,660 refugees relocated from areas around Yambio. Up to 30,000 displaced people are reported on the DR Congo side of the border. There are chances of more refugees crossing into Southern Sudan, which may further complicate and prolong the

humanitarian emergency there. The security situation due to LRA attacks is worsening on both sides of the border.

LRA units remain active in Southern Sudan and DRC, despite 13 weeks of joint tri-country military action against the rebels. UNHCR and OCHA expect humanitarian needs to continue to rise. Current gaps include access to safe water in Ezo, and in-general a low number of NGO partners operational in WES. The access situation, especially in Ezo and Tambura, is expected to worsen with the onset of the rainy season. There are also unconfirmed reports that some more refugees are coming from DR Congo and Central African Republic (CAR) into Western Bahr El Ghazal (WBEG). The Southern Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SSRRC) and the RCSO reported the presence of 35 households of Congolese refugees based in Wau Town. These had fled LRA attacks in the Oriental Provinces of Congo (Aba, Faraj, Dongo and Ariwara) two months ago. The LRA situation is considered serious, worsening and requiring more resources and planning to address. The Humanitarian Coordinator has requested for a US\$6.6 million grant from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), which is needed to expand the humanitarian response in areas affected by the LRA.

CERF grant request summary:

Total amount of humanitarian funding required for 2009:	USD 30,703,100
Total amount of CERF funding requested:	USD 6,621,866
Total number of beneficiaries targeted by the CERF grant request (disaggregated by sex/age):	16,000 Refugees (80% women and children) and 36,000 IDPs and 50,000 host population (65% women and children)
Geographic areas of implementation:	Central and Western Equatoria State, Southern Sudan

[UNHCR, OCHA, RCSO]

III. POPULATION MOVEMENTS

Refugees, IDP Returns and Re-integration

- Up to 456,155 refugees and IDPs returned to Southern Sudan in 2008. Cumulative figures since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in 2005 indicate that about 2,240,000 IDPs and refugees have returned to Southern Sudan through both organized means and spontaneously.

Cumulative Returns as of December 2008

	IDP	Refugee	Total
Organized Return			
2005		212	212
2006	7,432	25,811	33,243
2007	45,355	50,932	96,287
2008	28,645	62,185	90,830
	81,432	139,140	220,572
Other Organized '07			27,475 *
Other Organized '08			39,887 *
<i>Sub Total</i>			287,934
Estimated Spontaneous			1,950,000 ***
Grand Total			2,237,934

NOTE:

- * Estimates Based on ADRA/IOM Kosti Tracking Figures & RRR Field Offices
- ** Estimated figure including both IDP and Refugee in 2008
Source of Information: RRR field offices IOM, UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, UNRCO, States RRWG and Partners in the South in coordination with SSRRC
- *** Estimated figure including both IDP (+94%) and Refugee since 2004

[UNMIS–Return, Rehabilitation and Reintegration, January 2009]

IV. SITUATION, NEEDS AND RESPONSE BY SECTOR

Disease Outbreaks

- Epidemic disease surveillance activities are underway in the three Equatoria States. Three cases of the Wild Polio virus were reported in Kapoeta, Budi and Torit Counties while two cases were reported in Maridi and Tambura during week 10.
- Three rounds of National Immunization Days (NIDs) are planned in the three states to control the spread of the Wild Polio virus.
- Random iodine testing was done in two payams of Torit County. Up to 75% of the samples tested positive for iodine while 25% tested negative for iodine.

[UNICEF]

Health

- Accelerated Child Survival Initiative activities are on-going in Torit County where 8,568 households have been reached with an integrated package benefiting 14,183 children under the age of 5 years and 6,944 women of child bearing age including 1,420 pregnant women.

[UNICEF]

Food Aid

- WFP assisted 50,500 beneficiaries with 667mt of food in Southern Sudan during the reporting week. These included 1,344 IDPs in Yirol County in Lakes State assisted with 22mt of food following an inter-agency verification exercise in the previous week. The IDPs were displaced by inter-tribal conflict in the County in January 2009. So far, WFP has assisted 18,200 IDPs from the inter-tribal conflict with 592mt of food.
- Up to 2,950 LRA-affected IDPs in Mundri County in Western Equatoria State were assisted with 48mt of food in the ongoing interventions. Some 458 returnees were also assisted in Bangolo location in the county with a three-month food ration as part of reintegration. WFP, UNHCR and WVI were also carrying out verification, registration and distributions for the affected populations in Naandi and Andare in Ezo County during the reporting week, following insecurity incidents in the previous week.
- WFP assisted the 418 Anuak Refugees at the UNHCR way station in Malakal with 8mt of food during the reporting week, despite insecurity in the town.
- The eighth convoy comprising 542 returning Lobonok IDPs from Juba in Central Equatoria State received a three-month ration of food for reintegration during the reporting week. The organized return process is being implemented by the GoSS Ministry of Presidential Affairs in partnership with WFP, IOM and SSRRC. Since the operation started in December, WFP has assisted 3,895 returning IDPs with a three-month food ration for reintegration.
- WFP delivered 90mt of food for 20,500 school children under the school feeding programme in Eastern Equatoria State. The schools implement an East African curriculum, and thus are in session while most other schools in South Sudan are on long holiday.
- A WFP monitoring team visited Lui Girls National School in Mundri East, Eastern Equatoria. The school, with a population of 150 students, benefits from the WFP school feeding programme, which was inaugurated in May 2008 by H.E. President Salva Kiir. The team provided recommendations for strengthening the school feeding, including training in record keeping and food management, as well as employing food-for-recovery activities to improve infrastructure in the school.
- Following displacements caused by recent fighting in Pibor, WFP is making arrangements to provide a three-month food ration to the IDPs from Likuangole in the coming week.

[WFP]

Non-Food Items (NFIs) & Emergency Shelter

- In Eastern Equatoria, WFP provided a set of 176 non-food items, including wheelbarrows, axes, hoes and other agricultural implements to the Ofrika community in Torit. The NFIs are

meant to aide the community, mainly made up of returnees, to clear land for cultivation, clear roads and participate in food for recovery activities that build on community assets.

[WFP]

Water and Sanitation

- UNICEF supported Terekeka County with borehole spare parts to rehabilitate five (5) non functional boreholes to re-establish access to safe water for 2,500 beneficiaries in Tombek, Nyori, Reggo and Terekeka Payams.
- GPS mapping of 63 water points (20 in Yambio and 40 in Ibba) and three others was carried out by the Department of Rural Water Supply Services (DRWSS) and UNICEF.

[UNICEF]

Protection

- UNICEF staff visited Police stations and a prison in Wau. Three juveniles cases were monitored by social workers. Eventually, 10 children (convicted juveniles) were released. An estimated 20 cases remain in custody.
- The Ministry of Social Development of WBG State supported 281 vulnerable children with used clothes donated by UNICEF.

[UNICEF]

Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration

- The Southern Sudan Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission (SSDDRC) supported the return of the two youth that were demobilized with Children Associated with Armed Forces and Groups (CAAFGs) from Unity state.
- The numbers of children escaping from LRA have increased to 19, 6 Congolese and 13 Sudanese. Ten of the Sudanese children have been reunified with their families, and 2 Congolese children were reunified. One of the remaining four Congolese children has build contact with his mother and the process is on going for his reunification.
- Three children formerly abducted by the LRA from CES/EES were flown to Juba on Tuesday to be reunified with their families.
- The total number of the Congolese separated children under the care of ICRC/SRCS has dropped to 43 children 3 of them were being reunified with their extended families and five of them escaped from the center.

[UNICEF]

Education

- A total of 2,031 cartons of exercise books; 590 teachers' kits; 290 students' kits, 65 recreation kits and 24 blackboards were distributed to four counties, as follows:
 - Yirol East County in Lakes state received 391 cartons of exercise books, 150 teachers' kits and 150 students' kits and 24 blackboards.
 - Gogrial West County in Warrap state received 240 cartons of exercise books, 300 teachers' kits and 140 students' kits.
 - Gogrial East County in Warrap state received 420 exercise books.
- Wau County in WBG received 1000 cartons of exercise books, 140 teachers' kits and 65 recreation kits.

[UNICEF]

V. ASSESSEMENTS AND MISSIONS

- Inter-agency assessment reports may be obtained from OCHA EP&R – tedd@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