



Humanitarian Action in Southern Sudan Report Week 13, 23 – 29 March 2009

SUMMARY/HIGHLIGHTS

- ✚ Humanitarian workers return to Malakal as security improves
- ✚ Meningitis cases reported in four states
- ✚ Polio NIDs – National Immunization Days ongoing

I. FOCUS ON SECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

Malakal Update

OCHA is working with UNDSS and the NGO Secretariat on a phased return of staff from both NGOs and UN agencies to Malakal, Upper Nile State following improvement in the security situation. Fighting broke out in Malakal during the last week of February and the first week of March. The Area Security Management Team (ASMT) on Monday 23rd reduced the security level from Level 3 to Level 2. The UN Humanitarian Air Services (UNHAS) resumed flights to Malakal on Saturday 28th.

[OCHA]

II. POPULATION MOVEMENTS

Return and Re-integration of IDPs and Refugees

- During the reporting period, a total of 1,311 returnees were received by UNHCR in Southern Sudan (934 from Uganda to Central and Eastern Equatoria States; 154 from Kenya to CES, EES, Jonglei and Warrab States; and 223 from Ethiopia to CES and Upper Nile States).
- From 19 March to 24 March, a UNHCR sub-office Malakal/SSG undertook a Go-and-Tell visit to Gambella Refugee Camp to raise awareness among the Sudanese refugees to make an informed decision about their return to Sudan. Some 500 refugees registered for return to Upper Nile State. Therefore, repatriation of another group of refugee returnees from Ethiopia may take place before the beginning of the forthcoming rainy season.

[UNHCR]

III. SITUATION, NEEDS AND RESPONSE BY SECTOR

Common Services and Coordination

- In the period under review, UNJLC facilitated the movement of 2.8MT of cargo for the humanitarian community via land and air transport. Requesting agencies included Concern, Handicap International, IOM, UNICEF and WHO. Should you have any questions, please contact sudan.juba@unjlc.org.

[UNJLC]

Disease Outbreaks

- *Meningitis*: Twenty-six (26) cases were reported during Week 12, according to WHO. The cases were reported in four of the ten states namely; Eastern Equatoria, Unity State, Jonglei and Western Bahr el Ghazal. Kapoeta South had low coverage during the mass meningitis campaign completed in February. Plans for a mop-up vaccination campaign have been inhibited again by insecurity in greater Kapoeta. Medair, MSF and DoT are responding with vaccinations and medical supplies.
- *Acute Watery Diarrhoea*: Five hundred and twenty-seven (527) cases were reported from 30 counties this week. Up to 42.3% (223 cases) came from Jonglei State, mainly Nyirol County with 109 cases. Sporadic cases of AWD continue to be reported in Aweil North County, Northern Bahr el Ghazal (15 cases). The problem has persisted since the last 43 weeks.

- *Malaria*: Up to 2,640 cases were reported from 30 counties this week. Of these, 39.3% (1,038 cases) were from Central Equatoria State, mainly Juba County with 777 cases.
- *Polio*: Four more cases of Polio were reported during Week 12 (16th – 22nd March). According to WHO, a cumulative total of 40 cases have been reported since June 2008. Of these, 24 cases were reported in 2008, while 16 were reported during the first quarter of 2009. The 24 cases are cause for concern because for every case reported there probably would be several more unreported. This is a worrisome development considering that Southern Sudan had been Polio free for five years between June 2004 and June 2008.

[WHO]

Health

- In Unity State, Round III of Polio National Immunization Days (NIDs) started on 23rd March with social mobilization activities done in all the nine counties, targeting a total of 311,875 children under five years. Hijlij area is not covered due to insecurity.
- In Jonglei State, the Polio NIDs Round III campaign also started in all counties, except in Pibor due to insecurity and the inaccessible airstrip. During the NIDs Round II in Pibor, 55,014 children were vaccinated against Polio out of the targeted 51,549. The gap remained in Gumuruk Payams: Namam, Kochcar and Bebeno due to lack of logistical support. Up to 5 suspected and 1 confirm Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) cases were reported in the gap areas.
- UNICEF partner, MSF Belgium, in Pibor vaccinated 126 children against Measles as part of emergency Measles campaigns following the displacement of IDPs from Lekaungole to Pibor town. In the months of January and February, MSF Belgium also in Pibor and Lekuangole vaccinated: 323 children against BCG, 616 against DPT1, 144 against DPT3, 558 against measles, and 360 women against TT1 and 161 against TT2+.
- Accelerated Child Survival Initiative (ACSI) is ongoing in Eastern Equatoria State. Currently, a package of (immunization, bednets, Vitamin supplementation, demoring, health and nutrition education messages, and hand-washing) is being delivered to communities in Lafon and Magwi Counties. To date 12,391 women of child bearing age including pregnant women and 13,424 children U-5 years have been reached with the integrated package.

[UNICEF]

Nutrition

- Nutrition supplies, including 100 cartons plumpy nuts, 12 cartons F100 and 5 cartons F75, were delivered to MSF Belgium in Pibor (Jonglei State) to treat children suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition. Already 114 children are benefiting from the nutrition supplies in MSF B Pibor, Ambulatory Therapeutic Feeding Program (ATFP).
- A total of 12 anthropometries from the Ministry of Health in the three Equatoria states successfully completed four-day training on nutrition status screening in Yei town, supported by Southern Sudan Census Commission and UNICEF. They will participate in the upcoming household poverty survey later in 2009.

[UNICEF]

Food Aid

- During the reporting period, UNHCR in conjunction with World Vision International conducted the monthly food distribution to the Congolese refugee population in Makpandu Refugee Settlement Site in Western Equatoria State (WES). Food rations for Congolese refugees and Sudanese IDPs in Ezo, WES will also be distributed once they arrive at the site.
- Effective 1st April, UNHCR will be distributing food to only those refugees that are settled in the Makpandu Settlement Site.

[UNHCR]

Non-Food Items (NFIs) & Emergency Shelter

- Upper Nile State:-_Members of staff from World Vision, the NFI Common Pipeline Project's primary warehousing partner in Malakal, have returned to Malakal after being relocated following conflict in the area. As yet, official numbers on households affected by the conflict are unconfirmed.
- Western Equatoria State:-_A total of 300 NFI kits have been delivered to Ezo for distribution by World Vision on 30 March to households displaced by recent LRA attacks. The kits will be distributed at the same time as WFP food distributions, and will be supplemented by an additional 500 IOM kits which are to be transported to Ezo shortly in accordance with the food distribution schedule.

Following LRA attacks, ICRC supported displaced households in Naandi with distributions of their own NFI kits. A total of 900 full NFI kits and 156 half kits were distributed.

On 25 March, MSF-Spain distributed 130 UNICEF NFI kits to households affected by recent conflict near Yambio. An additional 200 pieces of plastic sheeting provided by IOM was transported from Wau on 28 March to support emergency shelter requirements.

- Jonglei State:-_Following clashes near Pibor, 5,011 IDPs have been displaced according to OCHA who carried out a rapid assessment of the area in partnership with MSF-Belgium. UNICEF dispatched 500 NFI kits and UNHCR dispatched various loose items (blankets, sleeping mats, soap, sanitary material, mosquito nets and plastic sheeting) to support the displaced population. Distributions of UNICEF NFI kits were carried out by Standard Action Liaison Focus (SALF) and SSRRC between 21 and 22 March.

Initial findings from the inter-agency assessment in Akobo indicate that 2,353 IDPs and 3,000 Ethiopian refugees have been displaced by conflict in the area. UNICEF has dispatched 1,000 NFI kits as an initial response to the displacements. Distributions will be carried out by Nile Hope.

Further information on the NFI & ES Sector can be obtained by visiting UNJLC's website at www.unjlc.org/sudan or by e-mailing sudan.juba@unjlc.org.

[UNJLC, UNICEF]

Water and Sanitation

- Emergency water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies were provided to COOPI for the intervention in Pibor, including 100 PVC toilet slabs, 480 Jerry cans, 1 submersible pump set, 49,920 boxes of water purifier (PUR), 1 generator for submersible pump with 6 cans of engine oil, 50 pieces of Tarpaulins, and 10 digging kits.
- On 23 March, UNHCR distributed 17 water purifiers to the Ministry of Health in Juba. Nine (9) of these purifiers will be reserved for emergency situations at the Ministry's Headquarters, GOSS while the eight (8) were directly donated to the Juba Teaching Hospital.

[UNICEF, UNHCR]

Protection

- UNICEF in collaboration with a community-based organization registered 128 separated children and orphans in Akobo. The process of tracing and reunification with their families in Akobo is ongoing.
- UNICEF is following up on the abduction of children and women reported in Pibor County. Akobo county commissioner said there are about 30 children and few women brought by the youth who came. Public announcement will be organized to call the abductors and child victims. Although there is a concern that all of the children and women will not be released until the Nuer children that were abducted in decades, years and recent fighting are recognized by Murle.
- Four children were reported to have been abducted by Murle in Cuil Village of Nyirol County (Jonglei State) on 25th March, 2009. Despite the massive attack to Murle town of Lokuongole where many children and women were abducted, the Murle are still abducting

children from areas in Urur, Nyirol and Akobo Counties, Jonglei Sate. UNICEF in Akobo is monitoring the situation of the children and women abducted by Nuer in Murle land.

- The two wounded children that were rescued from the LRA in Yambio to Juba last week have been reunified with their families in Central Equatoria State through the Totto Chan Rehabilitation Center with UNICEF support.

[UNHCR, UNICEF]

Mine Action

- A total of 3,303 (1,224 girls and 1,356 boys under 18 years old) and adults (374 women and 349 men) from Korok, Kabu and Lologo communities, Central Equatoria State have been reached with mine risk education (MRE) messages through War Child with UNICEF support.

[UNICEF]

Education

- The distribution of educational materials in Juba County in Central Equatoria in course 2 of the payams Munuki and Kator has been completed to school level. A total of 9,030 girls and 9,157 boys in 27 schools in the county will benefit when the school year starts in April.
- The distribution of educational materials in Torit County in Eastern Equatoria has been completed to school level. A total of 8,375 girls and 13,869 boys in 58 schools in the county will benefit from 187,200 exercise books, 310 student kits, 310 teacher kits, 58 recreational kits and 58 blackboards.

[UNICEF]

IV. ASSESSEMENTS AND MISSIONS

Akobo assessment, Jonglei State:

- A security assessment on 19th March 2009 reported that more Nuer Lou had arrived in Deng Jock, Akobo County, Jonglei State from Ethiopia. SSRRC reported an additional 3,500 IDPs in addition to the initial 2,353 caseload that had been assessed earlier.
- The IDPs are scattered along both sides of the Pibor River, north of Akobo, towards the border with Nassir. Some households displaced to Deng Jock had moved again to the Ethiopian side of the Pibor River due to fear of Murle attacks.
- Registration of the displaced population and numbers by location are yet to be provided. SSRRC and payam administrators have been requested to provide the numbers by 1st April.
- *For detailed assessment report please contact: dunlop@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