



Humanitarian Action in Southern Sudan Report Week 25, 15 – 21 June 2009

SUMMARY/HIGHLIGHTS

- ✚ Sobat Corridor remains blocked by militia men since the 12 June attack on UN aid convoy
- ✚ 214,000 people, about two and half times more than the 2008 total have been displaced by conflict halfway through 2009
- ✚ Airlifting of food to Akobo is ongoing as Sobat Corridor remains closed

I. FOCUS ON SECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

Sobat Corridor inaccessible: The Sobat River remains blocked by armed militias that were involved in the attack on a food aid convoy and its escort on 12 June. The Sobat River has been the only reliable means of transport for humanitarian cargo from Upper Nile State and Ethiopia during summer. The UN Deputy Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Lise Grande and the Government of Southern Sudan are coordinating efforts to improve access along the Sobat Corridor.

UPDF clashed with LRA recently: The security situation in Western Equatoria State was tense during the week following clashes between the Ugandan People's Defence Forces (UPDF) and the rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) on 11th June 2009 at the DRC border, 14 miles from Ezo Centre. The clash reportedly resulted in the death of one LRA member. On 12 June, one LRA soldier escaped and surrendered to the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) forces that were patrolling the DRC border. According to SPLA security investigations, the young boy of 15 years is a Central Africa Republic citizen who was abducted earlier and integrated in the LRA. According to the boy the Konyi group is within Ezo County territory. Currently the security forces are being deployed along Andari - Ezo Road to provide security to civilians.

[SOURCES: WFP, OCHA]

II. CURRENT ISSUES

Conflict Dynamics and Humanitarian Consequences

The combined effect of internal fighting and LRA attacks has caused grave humanitarian consequences for Southern Sudan. Efforts to reintegrate returning IDPs and refugees who had fled the protracted civil war keep being unwound by intermittent fighting. Further displacements are the order of the day. The fighting takes various forms ranging from ethnic clashes and cattle raids to clashes between units of uniformed forces.

Between January and June 2009, over 214,000 people were displaced by conflict within Southern Sudan while about 19,000 fled into Western and Central Equatoria States as refugees from the DRC. The number of IDPs affected by conflict during this half year period is almost two and half times higher than that for the whole of 2008. The IDPs and refugees are often uprooted from their sources of livelihoods and coping mechanisms. As a result, the demand for humanitarian assistance keeps overburdening the Government and the humanitarian community. Huge sums of money that would rather be spent on recovery and development four years into the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed in 2005, are spent on basic and consumption needs of the vulnerable people.

TABLE SHOWING IDPs & REFUGEES DISPLACED BY CONFLICT, JANUARY – JUNE 2009

STATE	IDPs	REFUGEES
Western Equatoria State	63,384	12,842

Upper Nile	51,867	-
Jonglei	45,351	-
Warrap	24,453	-
Eastern Equatoria	13,400	-
Lakes	9,788	-
Central Equatoria	5,043	5,796
Western Bahr el Ghazal	812	-
Northern Bahr el Ghazal	-	-
Unity	-	-
TOTALS	214,098	18,638

[SOURCE: SSRRC, OCHA, UNHCR, JOINT ASSESSMENT REPORTS]

According to UNHCR, the lack of respect for borders by the LRA makes it difficult for the Government and humanitarian actors to provide adequate refugee protection for the population that flee from the DRC. Many of the refugees are accommodated at three major refugee sites namely, Makpandu, Lasu and Ezo.

[SOURCES: OCHA, UNHCR, SSRRC]

III. POPULATION MOVEMENTS

Returns & Reintegration

Joint Organized Return Plan

- The International Organization for Migration (IOM) continues to facilitate the voluntary return of qualified personnel to Southern Sudan. During the reporting week, 31 people were assisted to return from Khartoum to Juba (1 persons); Bor (4 persons); Malakal (3 persons) and Wau (14 persons) through the IOM Return of Qualified Sudanese programme. Among the people were heads of households who had received permanent job offers with the State Ministry of Education. IOM provided them with the non-food items including tents and WFP provided a three-month food package.
- IOM/UN/SSRRC Joint Organized Return programme facilitated the return of 82 vulnerable households composed of 202 individuals from Juba to Magwi on 18th of June. All the returnees were also provided with non-food item kits and the reintegration food package from WFP.

Self Organized/Spontaneous Returns

Programme reports for the IOM and SSRRC Tracking of Spontaneous Returns show that in May

7,315 households of returnees (38,703 individuals) were registered in a number of areas across eight states of Southern Sudan. Data from Northern Bahr el Ghazal represents returnees over three months (March – May 2009).

The following table shows the breakdown per state:

STATE	Persons
Central Equatoria	625
Eastern Equatoria	365
Jonglei	9,599
Northern Bahr El Ghazal	18,335
Unity	7,419
Upper Nile	155
Warrap	1,536
Western Bahr El Ghazal	669
Total	38,703

[Source: IOM/UN/SSRRC Tracking]

Since the start of the programme in February 2007 a total of 936,698 spontaneous returnees (165,449 households) were tracked through the Area of Return Tracking in Southern Sudan and Southern Kordofan.

[SOURCE: IOM]

IV. SITUATION, NEEDS AND RESPONSE BY SECTOR

Common Services and Coordination

- OCHA is working with the humanitarian community to strengthen coordination of response to the people affected mainly by internal clashes and LRA attacks that have intensified in many areas across Southern Sudan within the past two months.
- The Emergency Preparedness and Response Taskforce meeting has increased in both number and profile of attendants. It is taking place every Thursday. The meeting is a forum for information exchange, where priorities are set for immediate response activities.

[SOURCE: OCHA]

Disease Outbreaks

- High cases of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) were reported in Leer County, Unity State and Wau County, Western Bahr el Ghazal with 132 cases and 202 cases, respectively.
- One case of meningitis was reported from Kapeota South, Eastern Equatoria State.
- Six cases of acute jaundice syndrome (AJS) were reported in Lafon, Eastern Equatoria State.
- The Ministry of Health also reported 13 cases of suspected cholera in Aweil South & Aweil East Counties, Northern Bahr el Ghazal. IRC reported a further 11 cases with (3) deaths during the week.

Week 24 - Epidemic Disease Surveillance Report (from 31 of 79 Counties in 8 of 10 States)

	Notifiable Diseases									
	Cholera	AWD	ABD	Meni ngitis	Measl es	AJS	Malaria	AFP	NT	VHF
Total Cases (Week 24)	13	1401	539	1	0	6	4090	16	0	0
Cumulative Cases Previous week	140	17228	5356	193	73	80	56330	2	10	0
Cumulative Cases	140	18629	5895	194	73	86	60420	18	10	0

[SOURCE: Ministry of Health, GoSS]

[SOURCES: MoH-GoSS, IRC]

Health

- Following the attack on a humanitarian convoy and its SPLA escort on 12 June, MSF Holland is treating 32 gunshot wound cases in Nasir. A further 15 cases are being treated in Malakal Hospital.
- The Accelerated Child Survival Initiative (ACSI) was successfully launched during the celebration of the Day of the African Child (DAC) in Yambio County, Western Equatoria State. It is expected to bring the much needed critical package (distribution of bed nets, deworming & measles vaccination to children under 5 years, TT vaccination to women of child bearing age, hygiene and breast feeding promotion education messages) to the targeted 31,000 children under 5 years and 38,000 women of child bearing age at 25,000 households in the state for the next one month. So far, 2,067 children under 5 years and 1,906 women of child bearing age have been benefited from the integrated package.

[SOURCE: UNICEF]

Nutrition

- The SMOH Malakal, Upper Nile State officially inaugurated a nutrition program at the Detang Health Facility, after two nurses were trained and 100 cartons of plummy nuts, two weighing machines and one measuring height board were provided to the facility by UNICEF through the state Ministry.

- 23 children have recovered after being treated for acute malnutrition at the Owachi Primary Health Care Unit in Owachi, Upper Nile State. The Unit is run by the Catholic Church with UNICEF support including the provision of 40 cartons of plumpy nuts, health care kits, sanitary latrines, under the Integrated Community Recovery and Development Programme.

[SOURCE: UNICEF]

Food Aid

- Food deliveries to Akobo remain on top priority. WFP is in the process of distributing 30 day rations to an estimated 19,000 IDPs desperately in need of food assistance there. Of the 285 MT needed in Akobo, 79MT have been delivered by air in the last 10 days by air. Up to 6,634 people have been reached so far. WFP is arranging for additional deliveries by air as the Sobat River, the only reliable transport link that serves the area from Malakal and Ethiopia during summer, remains blocked by armed tribesmen due to the recent conflict between the Jikany and Lou Nuer that led to the attack on the relief food convoy of 27 boats on 12 June, where some boat's occupants were killed and food looted. UNHAS and UNMIS are considering additional flights to Akobo to help transport supplies and staff.
- WFP and its partners assisted 130,464 beneficiaries with 1,699MT of food during the reporting week. The main target groups are IDPs, school feeding for children and residents affected by inter-tribal conflicts in Jonglei and Warrap States and LRA activities in Western Equatoria State during March and April 2009.
- Inter-agency food security assessments and returnees/IDPs registration and verification were conducted by WFP, UNRC SO, CRADA and UNMIS-RRR in Nyirol and Walgak, Jonglei State. Data analysis is ongoing and the mission report is expected in the coming week. The team in Nyirol verified 2,199 returnees and 3,817 IDPs. The registered returnees and IDPs were served with two months food rations. In Walgak the team registered 849 returnees and 4,857 IDPs, while other two teams were in Duk and Akobo counties on similar verification mission.

[SOURCE: WFP]

Food Security and Sustainable Livelihoods

- According to Fewsnet, the food insecure population remains mostly concentrated in the eastern and north-western parts of Southern Sudan. The categories include returnees, the chronically food insecure, conflict affected households and some refugees.
- A portion of 73,000 displaced people residing in surplus crop producing areas, especially in Yambio, Ezo, Maridi, Yei and Mundri are now food insecure due to persistent LRA attacks since December 2008. The LRA attacks continued during May and affected cultivation.
- Below normal rains in May and mid June may affect production in some marginal April/July cropping areas including parts of Mundri, Juba and Torit. Kapoeta may also be affected.
- Poor rains from May through mid-June also signal possible planting delays in many June - September/November cropping areas located in the Eastern/Western Flood Plains and Nile - Sobat livelihood zones.
- For a full report, write sudan@fews.net or visit the website www.fews.net/sudan.

[SOURCES: FEWSNET - www.fews.net/sudan]

Non-Food Items (NFIs) & Emergency Shelter

- With the approach of the rains, UNJLC is coordinating planning activities for partners in the NFI & emergency shelter sector to pre-position stocks in areas traditionally affected by seasonal flooding.
- A total of 4,000 NFI kits and 8,000 mosquito nets from the Common Pipeline Pilot Project stocks have been delivered to Malakal, Upper Nile State where they are being stored in the UNICEF and Medair warehouses in anticipation of flooding in Upper Nile.

- 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.

[SOURCES: UNJLC]

Water and Sanitation

- UNICEF supported the repair of four dysfunctional safe water sources by the Directorate of Rural Water Department-SMoPI/WBeG in Wau South and Wau North Payams, Western Bahr el Ghazal thereby restoring access to safe drinking water for 2,000 people.
- UNICEF supported the drilling of five new boreholes, providing access to safe water to 2,500 people in Yambio, Western Equatoria State.
- **Pibor emergency:** UNICEF partner, COOPI is currently preparing for the rehabilitation of the Pibor old water system.
- **Akobo:** 20 plastic slabs were delivered to Nile Hope Development Foundation (NHDF) in Akobo and 180 slabs are awaiting transportation by UNMIS. The community already dug 100 household latrines. A total of 4,560 people have received key hygienic messages through 38 hygiene promoters trained by NHDF with UNICEF support. UNICEF is preparing an agreement with NHDF to sustain the hygiene and sanitation activities in the IDP camp.
- IOM has finalized the drilling of 20 boreholes in Warrap State in areas that received high numbers of returns benefiting more than 10,000 individuals.

[SOURCES: UNICEF]

Protection

- Jonglei State Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) with UNMIS-RRR, RCSO and WFP carried out a field assessment in West Akobo Payam. Social workers from the MoSD reported 12 separated children staying with their relatives. Save the Children UK was tasked to trace the parents of these children.
- UNICEF partner, CMCM followed up on the 40 demobilized children in Leer, Unity State. The children are expected to participate in psychosocial activities, be in school while others are engaging in their own income generating activities. Also, UNICEF partner, WVI supported three demobilized children to go back to school in Warrap State.
- Child Disarmament, Demobilization and Rehabilitation (DDR) Officer for UNICEF identified and registered 15 children associated with armed forces (7 from NBeG State, 4 from Warrap State and 4 from Lakes State) that were based in Mapel, Northern Bahr el-Ghazal State. This brings the total number of the children to be demobilized from Mapel to 61.

[SOURCES: UNICEF]

Education

- UNICEF delivered educational supplies (1,000 boxes of exercise books, 100 Recreation Kits, 400 pieces of Go-to-School posters) to the state Ministry of Education in Eastern Equatoria State to assist the ministry to provide support to the children and teachers who are returning into the state from refugee camps in northern Uganda. Almost similar assistance was given for children and teachers returning from IDP camps into Central Equatoria State.

[SOURCES: UNICEF]

V. ASSESSEMENTS AND MISSIONS

- Inter-agency assessment reports, humanitarian situation monitoring and gap analysis matrices may be obtained from OCHA EP&R – eprsouthsudan@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