



Humanitarian Action in Southern Sudan Report Week 32, 03 – 09 August 2009

NOTICE BOARD

Inaugural World Humanitarian Day: *The 19th August 2009 will be the first World Humanitarian Day established by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2008. The designation of the Day is a way to increase public understanding of humanitarian assistance activities worldwide. The Day also aims to honour humanitarian workers who have lost their lives or been injured in the course of their work. The General Assembly invites all countries, the entities of the UN system and international and non-governmental organizations to observe the day annually in an appropriate manner.*

Why 19 August? - *Six years ago, on 19 August 2003, the United Nations Office in Iraq was bombed and 22 people lost their lives. Among them was Sergio Vieira de Mello, at that time the UN's High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Iraq. While there have been many other fatal incidents involving humanitarian personnel the General Assembly decided to use the anniversary of this incident as World Humanitarian Day."*

Southern Sudan plans for the day: *As humanitarian workers, we will continue to pay our respect to our colleagues through our daily work. At the same time, to increase public awareness on our work, we are planning for the following activities:*

- 1) *Address and interview with UN DRHC Ms. Lise Grande on Southern Sudan TV*
- 2) *Running of the Public Service Announcement video from HQs on local TV*
- 3) *Getting the SG's message out in the local press*
- 4) *Dissemination of soft and printed copies of the poster*

SUMMARY/HIGHLIGHTS

- ✚ *Humanitarian access to Akobo remains restricted by security threats and the rains. (see section I)*
- ✚ *Conflict and hunger worsen the humanitarian situation in Akobo. (see section II)*
- ✚ *Food insecurity worse in 2009 than 2008, according to ANLA mid-year review. (see section II)*

I. FOCUS ON SECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

Jonglei State, Akobo Country: Access to the population affected by hunger and conflict is extremely difficult since the Sobat River Corridor is impassable due to insecurity, while roads and bridges are not passable during the rainy season. Humanitarian cargo through the Sobat Corridor could hardly reach Akobo since the attack on barges carrying food aid on 12 June 2009. Political efforts to achieve a negotiated access agreement are continuing. WFP investigations also confirmed that the Gilo River from Ethiopia to Akobo cannot be an alternative due to security problems. Delivery of humanitarian assistance has so far been restricted to limited air lifting. WFP continue to airlift some food to Akobo by a 5MT cargo-plane and an UNMIS helicopter. However this barely meets minimum needs for the 17,000 IDPs and 5,000 returnees.

A ministerial team visited Akobo on 9th August to seek further political support for the opening up of the Sobat Corridor and to appeal to the youth refrain from reprisal attacks after the 2nd June massacres.

Local authorities and the Southern Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission reported that cattle raiding continues in other counties of Jonglei State. Small numbers of gun-shot wounded patients are being admitted to hospitals run by MSF in Waat and Pieri.

[Sources: OCHA, RCSO, WFP, UNICEF]

II. CURRENT ISSUES

Humanitarian situation in Akobo worsens amid hunger and tribal conflict

- About 185 people were killed in Akobo County, Jonglei State following attacks by gunmen on 2nd August, according to the County Commissioner and a recent inter-agency assessment mission. The humanitarian situation in the area is rapidly worsening. Medair still have over 350 children enrolled in therapeutic feeding programmes in Akobo Centre. Local authorities also lament the lack of security and protection for civilians due to various factors including lack of access to the area.
- A joint assessment mission visited the area following the attack and verified 19,874 IDPs in Akobo Centre that require assistance ranging including food aid and health care.

[Source: Local Authorities, OCHA]

Food insecurity worse in 2009 than in 2008, according to ANLA mid-year review

- A recently concluded mid-year review of the Annual Needs and Livelihoods Assessment (ANLA) has found food insecurity and conflict to be particularly worse in 2009 than in 2008. Severe displacements, disruptions of trade, overburdening of household coping mechanisms and poor rainfall have all prolonged and worsened the hunger gap.
- The ANLA review was carried out from 13th – 14th July to address concerns over a feared food security and nutrition crisis facing Southern Sudan.
- The review found 16.9% Global Acute Malnutrition in 2009 compared to 15.6% in 2008. Moderate Acute Malnutrition is 14.2%, up from 12.4% in 2008. Severe Acute Malnutrition dropped slightly from 3.2% to 2.7%. Chronic malnutrition persists in children under five as well as pregnant and lactating mothers in all five states covered by the assessment – Upper Nile, Eastern Equatoria, Warrap, Jonglei and Northern Bahr-el Ghazal. The hunger gap may persist for two months.
- Based on projections from the mid-year review, an additional 21,830MT of food assistance is required for 260,500 beneficiaries in six states, including Western Bahr el Ghazal. This is in addition to 96,000MT food for 1.2 million people that had been projected for 2009 towards the end of 2008. WFP has received 80,000MT of the total requirement. In addition, food aid projections for Unity State will be incorporated once ongoing assessments are completed. Delivery of the food aid will be through general food distributions (GFD) and food for recovery (FFR) targeting the most vulnerable internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other vulnerable groups.

[Source: ANLA Report]

III. POPULATION MOVEMENTS

Refugees, Returns and Re-integration

- The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) has sent a mission to verify reports of more refugees that are reported to have reached Lasu refugee settlement on 08th August. Currently there are **6,469** refugees registered at the settlement, according to UNHCR. Farming implements and other agricultural support have been provided by FAO and ACROSS. Refugee education facilities and systems are also being developed with the support of JRS.

[Source: UNHCR]

Returns & Reintegration

- **Abyei Area:** According to UNMIS, no significant security incidents were reported two weeks after the Permanent Court of Arbitration's ruling on the Abyei border on 22nd July

2009. The local Dinka and Misseriya communities that are directly affected by the decision are said to have generally been calm during discussions on implementation of the decision despite their concerns on its implications. The Misseriya are concerned about grazing lands. UNMIS reported that a mixed Dinka - Misseriya delegation travelled to Juba on 6th August to meet with senior officials from both the Government of National Unity (GNU) and the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) to discuss grievances and possible solutions. Both the GNU and GoSS are on a drive to encourage IDPs to return to Abyei. About 40,000 people fled Abyei after fighting between armed forces broke out in mid-May 2008.

- **Assisted returns:** On 6th August, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) assisted the return of 458 individuals (177 households) from Juba Town to Lokiriri Payam, Central Equatoria State as part of UN-supported south-south movements. IOM distributed NFI Kits to 192 households, and WFP provided the 3-month food rations.

[Source: UNMIS/RRR, IOM]

IV. SITUATION, NEEDS AND RESPONSE BY SECTOR

Disease Outbreaks

- MSF Belgium reported 10 cases of cholera in Pibor County, Jonglei State during Week 31. Three cases were confirmed from the samples that were collected.

[Sources: MSF, MoH]

Nutrition

- Following results of the ANLA mid-year review, nutrition interventions are underway, and the management of severe and moderate malnutrition is ongoing. Medair are delivering in-patient stabilization for severely malnourished children at Akobo County Hospital. Medair is also currently providing outpatient therapeutic feeding to 352 children. Supplementary feeding for moderately malnourished children will begin in a week. WFP have sent 10MT of commodities to last for one to three months and sufficient for up to 1,500 children. UNICEF is supporting the nutrition program with supplies to Medair.

[Source: WFP]

Food Aid

- About 70% of the 814MT of food from WFP earmarked for 19,000 IDPs who were displaced due Nuer and Murle conflict in March, April and August 2009 in Akobo County has been airlifted. Another 568MT of food is being dispatched for 3,200 Anyuak refugees and other vulnerable groups in Pochalla.
- On 5 August, the Governor of Eastern Equatoria issued a public statement declaring the state hunger-stricken and appealing for urgent food assistance. This year the state has experienced an unusually long dry season, resulting in failure of the first harvest. In the statement, the situation was characterized as deteriorating to extreme scarcity of the staple food, with a population of nearly 800,000 at risk. An increased number of malnutrition cases was reported by a food-security assessment last month that identified the most affected areas as Kapoeta North, South and East, in Greater Kapoeta, as well as Ikotos, Lafon, Budi and most parts of Magwi and Torit counties.

[Source: WFP, UNMIS]

Non-Food Items (NFIs) & Emergency Shelter

- Akobo, Jonglei State: An initial rapid assessment by an inter-agency team led by OCHA following inter-tribal clashes on 2 August, identified plastic sheeting and mosquito nets as the most urgent needs. UNJLC has requested Nile Hope Development Forum (NHDF), an NFI & ES Sector partner on the ground in Akobo, to verify the number of households in need of NFIs. Stocks will be dispatched as soon as the household verifications are complete.
- 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.

[Source: UNJLC]

Water and Sanitation

- To address emergency water and sanitation needs for the increasing number of refugees and IDPs due to LRA attacks in Western Equatoria State, IOM transported 300 latrine slabs and other items to Tambura on 05th August 2009.

[Source: IOM]

Mine Action

- On 3rd August, UNICEF partner, CMCM fenced off the area where the mine and UXOs were recently found in Boad Boma of Mayiendit County in Unity State, and carried out mine risk sensitization and awareness activities for 98 children and adults in the villages near the mine and UXOs.

[Source: UNICEF]

V. ASSESSEMENTS AND MISSIONS

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