



Humanitarian Action in Southern Sudan Report Number 33, 10 – 19 August 2009

SUMMARY/HIGHLIGHTS

- ✚ Today, 19 August 2009 is the inaugural World Humanitarian Day (*see UNSG's message*)
- ✚ LRA rebels attacked an IDP camp and a church in Ezo Town (*see Section I*)
- ✚ 22,000MT food required to avert severe hunger in Southern Sudan (*see Section II*)
- ✚ Flood preparedness to be increased as late heavy rains are expected (*see Section IV*)
- ✚ Over 2.2 million people displaced during decades of civil war returned to Southern Sudan between 2005 and 2008 – UNMIS-RRR (*see Section III*)

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MESSAGE ON WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY

19 August 2009

Today is the first World Humanitarian Day, proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly.

It is, above all, a day on which we renew our commitment to help vulnerable, voiceless and marginalized people wherever they may be. That is the abiding mission of the humanitarian community.

This is also a day on which we pay tribute to the legions of heroic humanitarian personnel. These men and women come from many backgrounds. But they share a conviction that one person's suffering is everyone's responsibility.

The date of this observance marks the anniversary of the attack on UN Headquarters in Baghdad which killed 22 dedicated men and women, including the great humanitarian Sergio Vieira de Mello.

We continue to draw inspiration from their legacy, and remain determined to carry it forward. The Sergio Vieira de Mello Foundation is doing just that by establishing an annual prize in his name that will recognize outstanding achievements in the peaceful reconciliation of conflict.

Like Sergio and the other brave colleagues who lost their lives that terrible day, humanitarian personnel venture to troubled regions to help others. For them, there can be no such thing as a forgotten conflict.

But to do that noble work -- to face down threats amid disaster and war -- they need our help. They need us to work tirelessly for their safety, security and independence.

World Humanitarian Day is meant to shine a spotlight on people in need, to ensure they receive the assistance they deserve. Let us redouble our efforts toward this goal. Let us fulfill our humanitarian imperative.

I. FOCUS ON SECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

- **Western Equatoria State:** On 12 August, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels allegedly attacked an IDP camp, a church and a government house in Ezo Town, Western Equatoria State and looted food that had been distributed on that day. Two people were killed and eight girls were abducted during the attack. Four more attacks by the LRA were reported in the same area during the week under review. With UNMIS support, 27 humanitarian workers were evacuated from Ezo Town to Yambio on 13 August.

- This attack at a food distribution site raises new concerns related to humanitarian access since beneficiaries and distribution centers are directly targeted. Restricted movements due to security considerations and impassable roads, particularly during the rainy season, have been the most common impediments to humanitarian access in Southern Sudan.
- According to local authorities, 186 people have been killed by the LRA in Southern Sudan in 2009. A total of 133 people have been abducted, many of whom are young girls. In total there are over 65,000 IDPs displaced by LRA attacks in 11 counties in Western and Central Equatoria States.
- **Jonglei State:** According to UN Security, the situation in Jonglei State is still fragile. On 12th August UNMIS deployed an air patrol to Lekuangole following reports of a possible reprisal attack by Lou-Nuer on Murle in Pibor County. So far no attack has been confirmed to have taken place but there is mounting fear of a revenge attack by Nuer tribesmen in retaliation to the Mareng incident of 02 August.

[Source: SSRRC, OCHA]

II. CURRENT ISSUES

Food deficit of 22,000MT required to avert severe hunger in Southern Sudan

- Following findings of the Annual Needs and Livelihoods Assessment (ANLA) mid-year review, additional 22,000MT of food is required to avert severe hunger in Southern Sudan. The World Food Programme (WFP) has 80,000MT in stock but will require US\$44 million to cover the food gap mainly to feed over 19,000 people in Akobo, Jonglei State and for transportation of the food aid. An additional \$7.5 million is required by UNICEF for nutrition support, while FAO requires \$800,000 for food security support.
- According to the ANLA findings, the most food insecure states are Northern Bahr el-Ghazal, Warrap, Upper Nile, Jonglei and Eastern Equatoria.

[Source: GoSS, WFP, UNICEF, FAO]

III. POPULATION MOVEMENTS

Returns & Reintegration

- According to UNMIS – Return, Reintegration and Recovery (UNMIS/RRR), about 248,000 IDPs and refugees returned to Southern Sudan between January and June 2009. (See table below)

IDP & Refugee Returns

All operations (January to June 2009)

State	UN/IOM Org.IDP	IDP, Other Organized	UN Org. Refugee	UN/IOM Org. Refugee+ IDP	Spontaneous	Total Returns
Northern Bahr El Ghazal	0	0	4	4	24,319	24,323
Warrab	0	3,007	14	14	1,865	4,886
Jonglei	0	0	384	384	26,344	26,728
Unity	0	0	8	8	9,040	9,048
Upper Nile	1,026	959	832	1,858	7,262	10,079
Western Bahr El Ghazal	0	0	1	1	12,824	12,825
Central Equatoria	7,438	0	18,174	25,612	34,938	60,550
Eastern Equatoria	620	0	11,619	12,239	5,588	17,827
South Kordofan	0	3,308	1	1	50,210	53,519
Lakes	0	0	12	12	12,205	12,217
Western Equatoria	0	0	85	85	13,897	13,982
Blue Nile	0	1,313	99	99		1,412
Abyei *	0	313	0	-	0	313
Khartoum & Others		0	3	3		3
Total	9,084	8,900	31,236	40,320	198,492	247,712

- Cumulatively, from the beginning of the return operation in 2005 until December 2008, 2,238,159 IDPs and refugees returned to Southern Sudan largely, while a few of them went to South Kordofan and Blue Nile. (See table below).

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	62,410	91,055
	81,432	139,365	220,797
Other Organized '07			27,475 *
Other Organized '08			39,887 *
<i>Sub Total</i>			288,159
Estimated Spontaneous			1,950,000 ***
Grand Total			2,238,159

[Source: UNMIS/RRR]

IV. SITUATION, NEEDS AND RESPONSE BY SECTOR

Common Services and Coordination

- OCHA Southern Sudan is making efforts to increase preparedness for possible flooding due to late rains. The office is discussing with the Meteorological Unit in Sudan to ascertain the risk of flooding and prepare to eventually minimize its impact and to respond. The Meteorological Unit has warned of the possibility of heavy 'el Nino' rains in October and November in the most Southern areas of the country. OCHA will assess the risk of floods in parts of Southern Sudan along the flood plains of the Nile River in Central Equatoria, Upper Nile and Jonglei States.

[Source: OCHA]

Health

- In Upper Nile, the State Ministry of Health (SMoH) and UNICEF supported the Mass Measles and Neonatal Tetanus (MMNT) Campaign in Malakal County, targeting 24,032 children between the age of six and 59 months and 31,620 women of childbearing age. The results are being compiled.
- The Accelerated Child Survival Initiative (ACSI) was completed in Aweil East County, Northern Bahr El Ghazal State. ACSI-pulse phase provides children under five years and women of childbearing age with an integrated package of basic health and nutrition services, including household bed nets, measles vaccination, de-worming tablets, and vitamin A supplements, hygiene and exclusive breastfeeding promotion education, and nutrition screening. So far the SMoH reported results for four out of seven payams, where 40,830 women of childbearing age, including pregnant women and 30,000 children were assisted.

Source: UNICEF]

Nutrition

- MEDAIR with UNICEF support continues to implement the emergency nutrition program in Akobo Town. During the previous week, about 390 children benefitted including 370 under the outpatient programme and 113 under the supplementary feeding programme. UNICEF also provided 500 cartons of plummy nuts.

[Source: UNICEF]

Non-Food Items (NFIs) & Emergency Shelter

- UNICEF provided MEDAIR and Nile Hope Hope Development Foundation (NHDF) with 3,000 water buckets, 98 plastic laps, and some Chlorine Aluminum Sulphate to Akobo Town, Jonglei State to support 19,874 verified IDPs in Akobo Town for emergency nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene interventions.
- On 15th August, IOM send 700 NFI kits – half each to Pibor and Lekoangole for the tribal conflict affected IDPs.

[Source: UNICEF, IOM]

Water and Sanitation

- As a part of the Akobo, Jonglei State emergency response, 34 household latrines were completed by NHDF with UNICEF support to provide safe sanitation facilities for 340 people.

[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