



Humanitarian Action in Southern Sudan Report Week 34, 17 – 23 August 2009

SUMMARY/HIGHLIGHTS

- ✚ Security assessment on Sobat River Corridor successfully completed (*see Section I*)
- ✚ Special arrangements put in place to carry on with food distributions in Ezo (*see Section I*)
- ✚ 6,000 people displaced by inter-tribal fighting in Warrap State (*see Section III*)

I. FOCUS ON SECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

Upper Nile State (Sobat River Corridor): From 17 – 21 August, the UN security personnel carried out a security assessment along the Sobat River in Upper Nile State. The security personnel held discussions with the Commissioner for Nasir County and some payam chiefs. Based on the recommendations of the assessment team, a decision will be made on the security level of the area as well as new plans for WFP to ship food to Jonglei State through the Sobat Corridor. If the Sobat Corridor reopens, WFP will save US\$4.2 million of the US\$44 million required to cover a food gap and airlift food to Akobo and other inaccessible areas. Delivery of relief items through the Sobat Corridor stopped on 12 June 2009 when armed militias sunk barges with 735MT of food from WFP on board and killed about 100 people including military escorts and civilians.

Western Equatoria State: A security assessment is planned in Ezo County, following five incidents of attacks by the rebel Lord's Resistance Army – one in Ezo Town and four in other parts of the State were reported during the week ending 15 August. The 12 August attack on an IDP Camp in Ezo Town following a food distribution left one civilian and one rebel killed while eight girls were abducted. It also caused the evacuation of 27 humanitarian workers from Ezo to Yambio for their safety and security.

The humanitarian community in Yambio reached an agreement for a committee of trained and experienced personnel from the Southern Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SSRRC), Catholic Church and others with oversight from the County Commissioner to carry out emergency distributions of one-month food rations to 15,000 beneficiaries in Ezo County. WFP in conjunction with UNHCR and World Vision International have agreed to this special arrangement. The beneficiaries include 12,000 newly arrived IDPs (excluding those that received rations previously) and 3,000 refugees (including the 2,417 verified and registered ones as well as estimated new arrivals). The distributions are expected to be completed within two weeks.

[Sources: UNDSS, OCHA, UNMIS/RRR]

II. CURRENT ISSUES

- NSTR

[Source:]

III. POPULATION MOVEMENTS

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

- According UNMIS/RRR, an estimated 6,000 people were displaced, 36 people reportedly killed and four children missing following inter-tribal fighting in Rualbet Payam, Tonj North County, Warrap State starting on 19 August. Several villages were burnt during the fighting. The fighting was between the Awan clan of Rualbet Payam in Tonj North County and the Luacjang of Tonj East County.

[Sources: UNMIS/RRR]

Refugees, Returns and Re-integration

- The UNHCR office in Central Africa Republic (CAR) has reported further influx of refugees from CAR to South Yubo, Tambura and Yambio. IOM confirmed some arrivals in South Yubo from CAR during the week under review. Security constraints are making it difficult to carry out an assessment to verify the new refugees.
- According to UNHCR in Southern Sudan, about 2,377 Congolese refugees were relocated from Ezo to the Makpandu Refugee Camp due to security concerns in Ezo.

[Source: UNHCR, UNMIS/RRR]

Returns & Reintegration

- Central Equatoria State: During the month of August, IOM facilitated the return of 814 individuals (297 households) as part of UN-supported south-south movements. The agency also reported that about 13,592 spontaneous returnees (2,594 households) had been tracked in Central Equatorial during the month of July 2009.

[Source: IOM, UNMIS/RRR]

IV. SITUATION, NEEDS AND RESPONSE BY SECTOR

Common Services and Coordination

- OCHA is assisting the DRHC to finalize the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for requesting military escort from UNMIS Force Protection in line with humanitarian guidelines and best practices in the use of military or armed escorts for humanitarian convoys.
- The Humanitarian Coordination Forum, chaired by the Southern Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SSRRC) was held on 20 August 2009. Key issues that were discussed included procedures on tax exemptions for humanitarian relief items, visa and work permit issues for NGO workers as well as humanitarian access to the various parts of Southern Sudan.

[Source: OCHA]

Health

- About 135,000 children under five years of age were immunized in Yambio, Western Equatoria State under the Sub-National Immunization Days (SNIDS). The programme was supported by WHO, UNICEF, health sector partners with leadership from the State Ministry of Health.

[Source: UNICEF]

Food Aid

- Key shocks like delayed poor rainfall, high levels of insecurity and high prices of basic food commodities created prolonged food insecurity in Southern Sudan.. The Annual Needs and Livelihood Assessment (ANLA) Mid-Year Review reflects an estimated 102,000MT of food assistance to 1.3 million people in areas with severe food insecurity. Southern Sudan has an overall global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate of 16.9%, which is above emergency thresholds. The most affected states are Eastern Equatoria, Jonglei, Northern Bahr Al Ghazal, Upper Nile, Warrap, and Western Equatoria.
- Food airlifting to Akobo IDPs and Pochalla Anyuak refugees and other vulnerable groups is continuing. As at 21 August, about 715MT had been delivered to Akobo, leaving a balance of about 100MT. Pochalla received 24MT, while the bulk of about 545MT is still pending delivery.
- Meanwhile, a convoy of 11 trucks carrying food is on the way to Pibor and Lekuangole. In Pibor, the food is meant for IDPs and the local hospital.

[Source: WFP]

Water and Sanitation

- IOM has completed drilling eight boreholes required to support the reintegration of 5,602 returnees that were supported by the UN and IOM to return to Lobonok Payam, Central Equatoria State. Additional two boreholes are still pending. In Lainya County, IOM has drilled eight boreholes and 120 pit latrines with funding from ECHO.
- Supplies comprising of IMK II hand pumps have been delivered to Yambio and Magwi Counties (Western Equatoria State) as well as Yei and Morobo Counties (Central Equatoria State) by UNICEF for installation of 10 new boreholes and repair of at least 50 broken hand pumps providing access to safe water for 30,000 people.
- During the week under review, UNICEF supported Directorate of Rural Water Supply and Sanitation in Central Equatoria State to drill two boreholes, one in Lainya and another one in Tore, to provide access to safe water for at least 1,000 people. The two boreholes bring of completed ones to five from the targeted seven boreholes supported by CERF funding to provide access to safe water for communities affected by the LRA in Central Equatoria State.
- More than 2,000 IDPs in Akobo Town, Jonglei State are receiving a minimum of 20,000 litres per day from a surface water treatment system completed by Medair and UNICEF.

[Sources: UNICEF, IOM]

Protection

- Twenty-eight (18 girls and 10 boys) unaccompanied and separated children were identified and registered in Maridi county, Western Equatoria State. Three more former LRA abductees have been registered and provided with psychosocial support including counseling. Seventy-eight registered children (23 girls and 55 boys) who are former LRA abductees, unaccompanied and separated from their families are benefiting from the child friendly center established in Maridi County.

[Source: UNICEF]

Education

- UNICEF delivered two ‘school-in-a-box’ kits and two recreational kits to competent authorities in Rualbet in Tonj North County, Warrap State to facilitate continuity of schooling for children among the 6,000 people displaced by recent inter-tribal fighting between Tonj East and Tonj North Counties.

[Source: UNICEF]

V. ASSESSEMENTS AND MISSIONS

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