



# Humanitarian Action in Southern Sudan Report

## Issue Number 36, 01 – 20 October 2009

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS – SOUTHERN SUDAN OFFICE

### Highlights / Key Priorities

- More than 350,000 people have been displaced by conflict in 2009
- Humanitarian access remains restricted mostly in parts of WES, Jonglei and CES
- Attacks from the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels continue in WES
- WFP resumes airlifting and airdrops of food amid restricted access

### I. Situation Overview

Humanitarian access remains restricted largely due to insecurity. The most affected areas are parts of the Equatorias, Jonglei and Warrap States.

Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels continue to destabilize most of Western Equatoria State. As a result, humanitarian needs are increasing.

Tribal fighting and other forms of internal fighting intensified in 2009 compared to 2008. Massive displacements have resulted along with abductions of children, injuries and huge death tolls.

The general insecurity in conflict areas as well as the bad road conditions, which quickly worsen immediately after heavy rainfalls severely restrict access in most parts of Southern Sudan.

The food crisis remains a cause for concern. The early harvest failed due to delayed rains in the earlier part of the season. The hunger gap was extended from August, when it should normally end to October. The second harvest that begins in October, is predicted to be much reduced although yet to be established by crop assessments.

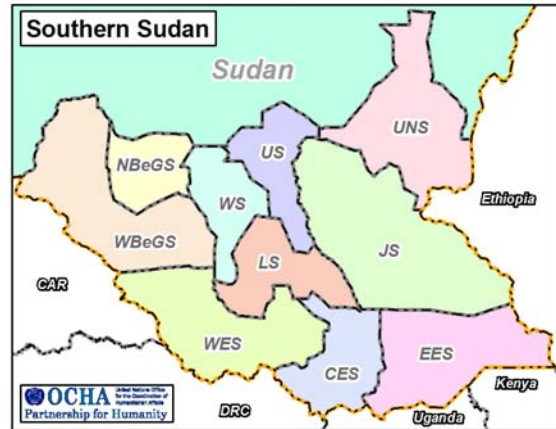
[Source: OCHA]

#### Unrelenting Attacks by the LRA in WES

The security situation in WES remained bad during the first half of October. The LRA rebels continued to carry out gruesome attacks in Ezo, Nzara, Yambio, Tambura, Nagero and Ibba Counties. About seven isolated attacks were reported during this period. The attacks are always characterized by abductions, killings and looting.

On 1 October, LRA rebels abducted 15 people, among them seven females and eight males at Gangura, Yambio County. Five of the people were eventually rescued by the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Army (SPLA) soldiers alongside the local community militia group - 'Arrow Boys'.

On 09 October 2009, LRA rebels abducted two hunters at Basandac Village near Tambura Town and looted some food.



Ten states that make up Southern Sudan: Northern Bahr el Ghazal (NBeGS), Western Bahr el Ghazal (WBeGS), Western Equatoria (WES), Central Equatoria (CES), Eastern Equatoria (EES), Jonglei (JS), Lakes (LS), Warrap (WS), Unity (US) & Upper Nile (UNS). The map above does not claim to show official borders.

In Tambura, a large group of LRA rebels was reportedly spotted on 10 October. The group later burned down some houses between Zangambara and Namutina. No casualties and abductions were reported. The group reportedly split into two after the attack. Another attack was reported at Namutina, Nagero County on the same day.

A total of 12 children (seven to ten years old) and an elderly couple were abducted by the LRA on 11 October at Mbungu Village, three miles out of South Yubu.

On 14 October 2009, about ten LRA rebels attacked Bambia Village, Yambio County. They killed two women and burnt down two homes before withdrawing towards Central Africa Republic (CAR). On the same day, the rebels attacked Bariguna Village, nine miles from the Source Yubu – Ezo road. They reportedly killed the son of the Chief of Bariguna, while the 'Arrow Boys' killed three LRA rebels.

Of late the LRA have a tendency to attack food distribution points where they mainly loot food, non-food items and abduct children, young women and men.

Normal humanitarian activities were cut off from most of the LRA affected counties when the LRA attacked a holding camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ezo Town on 12 August. Following this attack, all humanitarian workers were evacuated to safety in Yambio and have not been able to access the needy population.

A special remote control arrangement to deliver assistance through local government and community organizations including churches worked well for Ezo County after the evacuation. The same arrangement is being expanded to areas like Naandi and Andari since humanitarian access remains restricted in most of WES. Agencies have not had regular access to the affected population in Ezo - the most affected county - due to insecurity.

### **Impact of Tribal Fighting**

Over 350,000 people have been displaced by all types of conflict within Southern Sudan in 2009. This figure is almost double that of 2008. Humanitarian actors compare this rate of displacement with that of the civil war period. There is grave concern on the increasing demand for humanitarian assistance.

During the first half of October, more than 16,000 people were displaced by tribal conflicts. Major incidents happened in Gemmaiza Payam, Terekeka County and Ndolo Payam, Juba County in Central Equatoria State.

The conflict in Gemmaiza, east side of the Nile River from 28 September to mid-October is reported to have killed 42 people and injured 20 more. Several thousands of Mundari people were displaced westwards into Terekeka County, forced across the 200m wide Nile River that is embedded in a six kilometer wide swampy area.

The clashes are said to have been caused by a sudden expansion of Dinka Bor cattle camps arriving from Eastern Equatoria State (EES) en route to Jonglei State.

OCHA led an interagency assessment to Terekeka on 7 October and is coordinating the humanitarian response. Local authorities report that there are 14,335 IDPs in Terekeka County. WFP will further verify the numbers when the security conditions improve. Humanitarian access has been delayed by insecurity on the Juba-Terekeka road.

On 10 October, a Mundari tribal group attacked fellow Mundari people at several cattle camps in Loret and Tijor, Ndolo Payam, Juba County. Nine people were killed and eight were wounded.

Reportedly, over 1,694 people were displaced to Nyamini and Kuda. About 1,852 heads of cattle were stolen. A joint assessment team comprising of UN agencies and the Southern Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SSRRC) will confirm the humanitarian situation of the IDPs on 21 October.

On 12 October, a group of 100 cattle raiders attacked the village of Mularatiga in Lafon County, EES and stole almost 1000 heads of cattle.

On 16 October, UN Military Observers reported clashes between Turkana and Toposa pastoralists in Narus, Kapoeta East County, EES along the border between Southern Sudan and Kenya.

*[Sources: RCSO, UNMIS, OCHA]*

### **Transportation Related Access Constraints**

*Akobo/Nasser area, Jonglei/Upper Nile States:* The Sobat River Corridor is accessible but water levels are not rising as expected. Unless there is more rain, passage by large boats may become impossible. Road access from Patia (between Waat and Ayod) all the way to Akobo is still closed.

*Jonglei State:* From Bor travelling north to Panyagor and Duk Padiet, there are two road stretches that are passable by 4X4 light vehicles on the minimum. The Bor to Pibor road is still closed despite being prioritized for road works by the Ministry of Transport. IOM will attempt to use the route again after their 6x6 trucks from KRT will have been sent to Bor in November.

*Western Equatoria State (WES):* A number of large trucks got stuck at the Biiki junction along the Yangiri to Tambura road. Temporary repairs were carried out on the Biiki Bridge this month. More sturdy repairs are being done by the local traders and authorities.

*Warrap State:* In Tonj North County, the road from Tonj through Thiet to Kirik and Warrab remains impassable.

More information and current road access maps can be obtained from the UNJLC website at <http://unjlc.org/sudan>. Alternatively, requests can be emailed to [sudan.juba@unjlc.org](mailto:sudan.juba@unjlc.org).

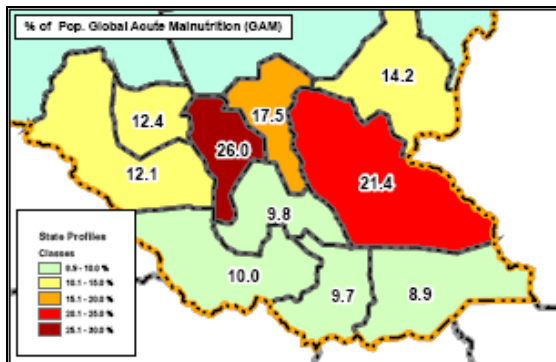
*[Source: UNJLC]*

## **II. Humanitarian Needs and Response**

### **Nutrition**

Southern Sudan has an average Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate of 16.9%. Severe food shortages in Warrap, Jonglei and Unity States, among others, account for the worsening nutrition

status. The map below shows GAM rates for all the ten states.



Therapeutic feeding schemes are being implemented to address the problem among children. During the reporting period, UNICEF delivered 229 cartons of ready-to-use therapeutic food (Plumpy nuts) to World Vision International (WVI) for treatment of about 800 malnourished children identified in Eastern Equatoria State. A carton of plumpy nut has 150 sachets. The recommended dose is four sachets per child per day for at least 60-90 days.

A further six cartons of Plumpy nuts and one package of 50 Mid and Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) tapes used to measure arms when screening for malnutrition were supplied to the State Ministry of Health (SMoH) in Northern Bahr el-Ghazal State.

[Source: UNICEF, OCHA]

#### Non-Food Items (NFIs) & Emergency Shelter

Non-food items were identified as some of the needs among the IDPs in Terekeka following an OCHA led assessment on 7 October. In response, International Organization for Migration (IOM) provided 2,201 NFI kits, which were supposed to have been distributed on 17<sup>th</sup> October to 1,703 households in Terekeka Town. However, the NFI kits could not be transported due to insecurity along the Juba – Terekeka road. They will be delivered when the security permits. There is concern that the distribution of NFIs in Terekeka Town may also attract more IDP influx from other parts of the County. Therefore, there is need to manage the distributions carefully.

[Source: IOM]

#### Water and Sanitation

In response to the Terekeka displacements, MSF Belgium began construction of 26 emergency latrines in Terekeka County on 15 October. UNICEF provided the SMoH for Central Equatoria with 10 cartons of water purification tablets to

improve access to safe drinking water for the displaced people in Terekeka. A carton of water purifiers has 14,000 tablets. Each tablet can purify 20 litres of water. Therefore, a carton purifies 280,000 litres of water. Medair is drilling 10 boreholes in Terekeka and the possibility of allocating three of the boreholes to areas occupied by the IDPs has been discussed.

The installation of the second surface water treatment (SWAT) system in Akobo, Jonglei State was completed by Medair and UNICEF providing access to safe drinking water to an additional 2,000 IDPs. Medair provided consumable items to ensure the operation of the water system for a one month operation. UNICEF provided consumable items to ensure the operation for another six months through the Department of Rural Water Supply Services (DRWSS) to Nile Hope Development Foundation (NHDF).

[Source: UNICEF]

#### Protection

Four years after decades of civil war, demobilization of child soldiers and Children Associated with Armed Forces and Groups (CAAFG) is underway in Southern Sudan. Significant numbers of children continue to be abducted during the current tribal fighting and attacks by the LRA rebels.

During the reporting period, UNICEF undertook a monitoring visit to an interim care center in Malualkon, Northern Bahr el Ghazal State. The center accommodates 30 children that were demobilized from Mapel Barracks at the beginning of September. Families for 27 of the children have been identified. The process of reunifying the children with their parents is underway with the help of the Southern Sudan Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission. UNICEF will provide NFI kits to the children upon their reunification.

In Jonglei State, Pibor County authorities rescued another 16 children from their abductors. UNICEF has been requested to support with temporary accommodation and family tracing and reunification (FTR) process. The other 13 children that were rescued in early September are still waiting to be reunified with their families in Ethiopia.

[Source: UNICEF, OCHA]

#### Refugees and Returns

UNHCR estimates that there are currently 23,161 refugees in Southern Sudan mainly fleeing LRA attacks in the Democratic Republic of Congo

(DRC) and CAR. Over half of these are in three refugee sites: Lasu in Central Equatoria State and Ezo and Makpandu in Western Equatoria State.

[Source: UNHCR]

### Health

UNICEF provided the State MoH in Central Equatoria with assorted medical supplies to treat about 14,000 people, among them (2,940 children under five and 3,500 women) who have been displaced in Terekeka County. World Health Organization (WHO) also provided medical supplies to clinics in Terekeka County.

An assessment team comprising of WHO, SMOH and SPLA visited Kit Kit and Firga in Raja County, Western Bahr el Ghazal State (WBeG) to verify rumours of Viral Hemorrhagic Fever (VHF) cases among soldiers. The assessment team was in the affected areas on 15 October and found no evidence of VHF. One sample that was collected tested negative. WHO reported that the reports were a false alarm but health authorities will maintain high alert.

Up to 180kg of medicines were delivered by WHO on 14 October to treat cases of Kala-Azar (*Visceral Leishmaniasis*) that were reported in Old Fangak County, Jonglei State and around Malakal, Upper Nile State. MSF donated testing equipment.

[Source: WHO]

### Food Security and Livelihoods

A combination of factors has caused acute food shortages in Southern Sudan;

1. poor rainfall;
2. failure of first season harvest in most areas of greater Equatorias;
3. continuous civil insecurity which led to widespread displacement, destitution and death; and
4. high cereal and low livestock prices affecting households' ability to buy appropriate food for a food secure diet.

According to the Famine and Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET), minimal improvements in food security after the October 2009 harvest will last only until December 2009 to January 2010 due to lack of rains. The extent and magnitude of the yield reduction will be established by the Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM) that is scheduled to take place from 26 October to 13 November 2009.

According to WFP, Jonglei State is the epicentre of the hunger gap. An additional 125,000 beneficiaries are targeted across the state for the emergency, in

addition to 40,000 existing IDPs from conflicts in the state.



Crops under moisture stress in Southern Sudan [Photo Credit: FAO]

Airlifting of food aid by the UNMIS Mi26 helicopter and UNHAS Buffalo plane until 30<sup>th</sup> September has delivered food as follows: Akobo 339 mt and Pochalla 250 mt.

Sobat River Corridor was cleared for humanitarian traffic by UNDSS despite recent attacks on two commercial boats in late September.

In September, WFP sent 150 mt of food aid through the Sobat River. From that consignment, 120 mt reached Akobo and the other 30 mt were distributed to Jikany Nuer people along the route, before Wanding Payam.

In October food dispatches from Malakal along the Sobat Corridor for Nasir, Ulang and Akobo beneficiaries were accomplished. Some 170mt of food was delivered to Nasir and Ulang targeting 21,700 residents, while 750 mt was delivered to Akobo.

Between August and October, WFP has assisted 177,950 beneficiaries with a total of 2,500 mt food aid within the Emergency Hunger Gap Response.

Until 6 October, no authorization to base an Antonov plane in Juba was given. Following the approval of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on this day, WFP and the UN Humanitarian Air Services (UNHAS) finalized preparations for drop zones, radio communications and staffing for airdrops to begin towards the end of October.

Revised airdrop requirements for about two months now stand at 4,492 mt/month. This excludes the

Akobo food aid, which will further on get delivered by boat along the Sobat River.

Due to the delay in airdrops and shortages in food supplies in WFP warehouses, sub-offices have shifted, cancelled or suspended several recovery activities. This was necessary to free up commodities (nearly 2,000 mt) for prioritized emergency response in the most food insecure states – WbeG, NBeG, Warrap, Jonglei and Upper Nile.

*[Source: WFP, SIFSIA, FEWSNET]*

### III. Coordination

The Southern Sudan 2010 Humanitarian Work Plan was finalized and submitted on 19 October. The SSRRC, donors, UN agencies and NGOs actively participated in the work plan process.

OCHA/SSRRC led a workshop on contingency planning in Yambio, Western Equatoria from 14-16 October. The State Governor launched the Humanitarian Coordination Forum for the state after the workshop. The forum is chaired at the highest level of the SSRRC with OCHA support.

A regional monthly meeting takes place in Juba while other meetings are supposed to take place in all the states.

Upcoming missions;

- OCHA/SSRRC led workshop on Contingency Planning in Eastern Equatoria State will take place in Torit on 20-22 October.
- OCHA will lead an inter-agency assessment to Nyamini and Kuda, in Juba County, CES on 21st October.

Key meetings on schedule;

- Every Thursday  
Emergency Preparedness and Response Taskforce Meeting, 3pm at OCHA. Chaired by OCHA.  
Contact: [tedd@un.org](mailto:tedd@un.org) or [louis6@un.org](mailto:louis6@un.org)
- Every Month  
Humanitarian Coordination Forum Meeting, Date & Time (TBA), at OCHA. Chaired by SSRRC.  
Contact: [kahwa@un.org](mailto:kahwa@un.org) or [louis6@un.org](mailto:louis6@un.org)

**Note:** Sector leads are kindly requested to email their meeting schedules to [maputseni@un.org](mailto:maputseni@un.org) for inclusion in the next issue of this report.

Inter-agency assessment reports, humanitarian situation monitoring and gap analysis matrices may be obtained from OCHA – [tedd@un.org](mailto:tedd@un.org) / [louis6@un.org](mailto:louis6@un.org)

*[Source: OCHA]*

For all OCHA Southern Sudan Reports, visit:

<http://ochaonline.un.org/sudan/SituationReports/SouthernSudanReports/tabid/3369/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

**Contributions:**

If you have inputs for the next edition, or questions/comments to the current issue, please contact: [maputseni@un.org](mailto:maputseni@un.org).

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