

HIGHLIGHTS / KEY PRIORITIES

- Vulnerability intensified in Southern Sudan in 2009
- Almost twice as many people were displaced by conflict in 2009 than in 2008
- The food crisis that emerged in 2009 will spill over into 2010

I. SITUATION OVERVIEW

Five years after the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) that ended more than two decades of civil war, Southern Sudan still has some of the worst vulnerability indicators in the world. Surges in localized violence and food insecurity in 2009 added to an already grim humanitarian situation, particularly in parts of Jonglei, Upper Nile, Lakes, Warrap, Central and Western Equatoria States. Although major efforts, none of the south's key institutions had sufficient resources to handle the situation. In addition to the escalating violence and the critical food gap, the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) experienced ongoing financial problems and has been unable to take over delivery of social services from humanitarian organizations.

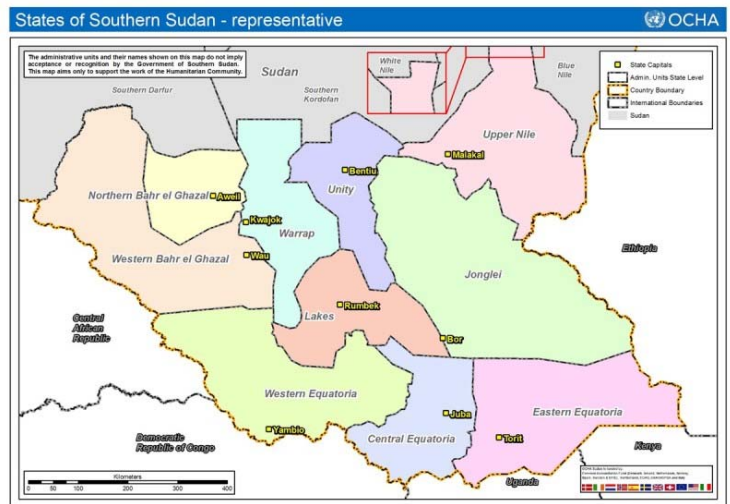
One thousand newly displaced per day

The nature and magnitude of inter-tribal attacks remarkably increased in 2009. The Southern Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SSRRC) in conjunction with the humanitarian community recorded more than 350,000 people displaced and 2,500 people killed by conflict from January to December. Over 80 percent were displaced by inter-tribal and related clashes. The other 20 percent were displaced by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels, mainly in Western Equatoria State and to a lesser extent, Central Equatoria State. In addition, about 20,000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Central Africa Republic (CAR) entered Southern Sudan escaping the LRA brutality. The number of people displaced in Southern Sudan in 2009 is almost double that of 2008 when 187,000 were displaced because of conflict.



A boy salvaging utensils after a hut was burnt in an attack in Kalthok, Lakes.

In addition to a sheer increase in number of attacks, the attacks also showed a new worrying pattern. With women and children deliberately targeted, observers and authorities agreed that the massacres represented a new, disturbing phenomenon, and not simply a continuation of traditional competition over land and access to water or grazing land, or historically common-



Southern Sudan consists of ten states. The map above does not claim to show official borders.

place cattle raiding. Casualties were in their hundreds and weapons used during the attacks increasingly got more sophisticated.

[Source: SSRRC, OCHA, UNMIS, RCSO]

LRA attacks

After the LRA rebel group failed to sign a peace agreement for the fourth time in one year on 29 November 2008, a joint military operation involving the Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces (UPDF), the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and the DRC army was launched against the rebels in mid-December 2008. Since then, the LRA intensified attacks on civilians in Central and Western Equatoria states. In 2009, the LRA killed, maimed and abducted civilians and caused instability especially in and on the border with Western Equatoria. The state used to be one of the agriculturally self-sufficient states in Southern Sudan. The presence of LRA, however, disrupted agricultural life and as a result, the state has become food insecure and will register a food deficit in 2010. No attacks by the LRA have been reported in the area since mid-November, but considering the terror inflicted on the local population, a few months without attacks will likely not encourage people to return and cultivate their fields. Two LRA attacks were reported in Western Bahr el Ghazal in December 2009, suggesting some LRA groups have moved further north.

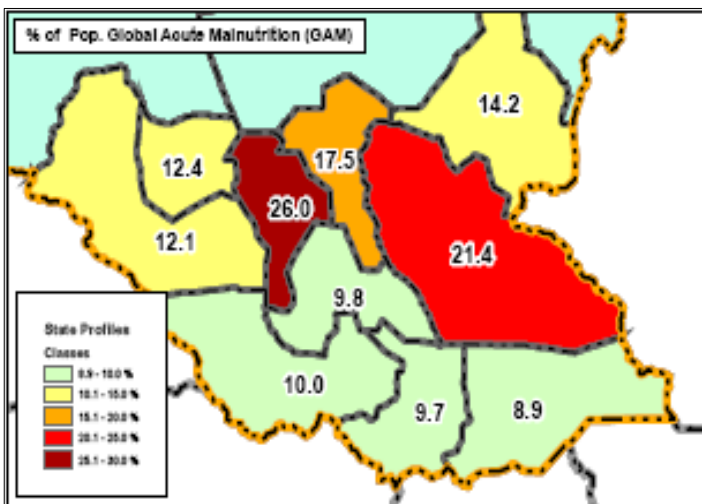
[Source: OCHA, UNMIS, RCSO]

Food Crisis

During the second half of 2009, Southern Sudan faced a massive food deficit caused by a combination of late rains, insecurity, disruption of trade and high food prices. Preliminary findings of the Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM) led by FAO and WFP from 26 October to 11 November indicated that crop production in 2009 would be lower than the normal average annual production of 800,000 metric tons. The final results of the assessment are yet to be released by the GoSS. The food gap will need to be filled by food aid, strategic reserves and commercial imports.

In August, a review of the Annual Needs and Livelihoods Assessment (ANLA) confirmed that as many as 1.5 million people faced severe food insecurity between August and December 2009. Of these, an estimated 900,000 people, both adults and children, needed multi-sectoral assistance with 500,000 children under-five in need of supplementary and therapeutic feeding in the five most affected states - Northern Bahr el-Ghazal, Warrap, Upper Nile, Jonglei and Eastern Equatoria. In addition, at least 27,000 households required agricultural inputs, fishing equipment, livestock vaccines and conditional and unconditional transfers to re-build their assets. Malnutrition worsened, bringing the global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate to 16.9 percent. Preliminary reports indicate that the population faces a massive food deficit in 2010. The situation is fuelled by drought and insecurity which pushed cereal prices up and livestock prices down.

The map below shows the current global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates for all the ten states:



Access

High incidence of tribal fighting and LRA attacks throughout 2009 restricted access to carry out assessments and deliver humanitarian assistance in significant parts of eight of the ten states. Only Northern and Western Bahr el Ghazal states were relatively calm. Equally restrictive were the inadequate road infrastructure, which quickly became impassable during the rainy season (May to November), as well as air strips overgrown by vegetation.

The Sobat River Corridor – a major supply route to Upper Nile and Jonglei states – experienced two attacks and one detention of barges delivering supplies to Akobo, Jonglei State. On 15 December, a commercial boat traveling from Nasser, Upper Nile State to Akobo, Jonglei State was attacked and looted by 14 unknown armed men between Makak and Kuanythang. On 20 November, a convoy of 26 barges transporting 764 metric tones of food aid from WFP was detained for one week near Nasser. The incidents were worrying as a similar convoy was attacked on 12 June when, in addition to casualties, 735 metric tons of food aid for Akobo was lost.

Beginning mid-October, humanitarian organizations began to gain access to refugees and internally displaced people affected by the LRA in Ezo County, Western Equatoria State. Humanitarian activities had been 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.

Special flights and military escorts from the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) assisted to improve access to vulnerable populations in many parts. Over 22,000 people displaced by conflict in Jonglei and Warrap State were eventually reached with assistance at the end of October. Continued insecurity and bad road conditions in these two states had delayed humanitarian response since the various incidents of fighting took place in August 2009.

The United Nations Joint Logistics Centre (UNJLC) mapped major corridors for humanitarian traffic throughout the rainy season. According to UNJLC, access has opened on most corridors due to the onset of the dry season and the map will be produced again when necessary.

[Source: OCHA, UNRCSO, UNJLC]

II. HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Food Security and Livelihoods

Combined efforts of 342 NGOs, including 155 international and 187 national organizations and 20 UN agencies and international organizations and continued funding from donors kept humanitarian operations afloat in 2009.

The World Food Programme had received 80,000 metric tons of food aid by the time of the ANLA review. A gap of 22,000 metric tons remained to be filled. An emergency appeal amounting to US\$57 million was launched in mid-August to cater for the food gap. By the end of November, the appeal was 47 percent funded. Beneficiary statistics were not yet available at the time of writing.

[Source: WFP, OCHA]

Non-Food Items (NFIs)

The massive displacements due to fighting increased demand for non-food items (NFIs). About 45,000 households (225,000 people) displaced by conflict received NFIs in 2009. One NFI kit serves a household of five to six members. When members of the household are less than five, "mini" kits are prepared (i.e. reduced kitchen sets and other items depending on needs).

[Source: UNJLC]

Nutrition

Between January and October 2009, 18,315 severely malnourished children – 33 percent of target – were treated at Therapeutic Feeding Centres (TFCs), Out-Patient Therapeutic Programmes (OTPs) and Community Therapeutic Centres (CTCs). A total of 79 such facilities, up from 50 in 2008, were run by the Ministry of Health and NGOs in all the 10 states. The children were largely served with plumpy nut, a nutrition enriched powder made from powdered milk, ground peanuts, oil, powdered sugar, vitamins and minerals. It comes in foil sachets and makes a highly nutritious porridge. The recommended dose is four sachets per child per day for at least 60-90 days.

[Source: UNICEF]



A child under therapeutic feeding.

Health

Low vaccination rates across Southern Sudan continue to leave millions of children vulnerable to deadly, but preventable, diseases. Over the course of the year the BCG vaccination coverage rate, which gives protection against tuberculosis, achieved 48 percent coverage compared to 18 percent in 2008. The coverage of DPT3, the final dose of the vaccine against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus has also improved and 28 percent of children are now covered against these diseases.

Despite these improvements, Southern Sudan's vaccination coverage remains one of the worst in the world. The previously eradicated disease wild polio re-emerged in mid 2008. That year, 24 cases were recorded and in 2009, 40 cases. This outbreak attracted world-wide attention and it infected neighbouring countries. A team of 23 polio experts from WHO, UNICEF and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) came to monitor seven rounds of National Immunization Days held in March/April to improve the quality and coverage. Since June 2009, no new cases have been reported. However UNICEF and partners are closely monitoring the situation with continued efforts to improve the coverage. In total, 2.8 million children aged 6-59 months received Vitamin A as an additional intervention to the polio vaccine.

Malaria, pneumonia and diarrhoea remain the major causes of morbidity and mortality. The main program implemented by UNICEF to tackle child mortality is the Accelerated Child Survival Initiative (ACSI) – a holistic program that targets the main causes of death for children under five years old. This includes distribution of mosquito nets to prevent malaria, health and hygiene promotion, promoting breastfeeding and handwashing, vaccination against polio and measles (and tetanus for pregnant women) and distribution of vitamin A. This initiative contributed to the reduction of reported case of measles in all states in 2009. As of early October, 100 cases were reported compared to 292 in 2008.

[Source: UNICEF]

III. COORDINATION

OCHA worked with partners to effectively coordinate humanitarian operations in 2009. The pooled funds – Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) and Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) were used to ensure timely response to identi-

fied humanitarian needs. Up to 65 humanitarian needs assessments were facilitated throughout the year. OCHA continued to track displacements due to conflict. At the close of 2009, the need to track numbers of people returning home after displacement was realized and by the end of the year, OCHA had put in place two databases to help tracking population movements and incidents.

The need for stronger coordination mechanisms became apparent with the deteriorating humanitarian and security situation in 2009. Humanitarian actors progressively refocused programmes on emergency response throughout the year and increased preparedness at state level. In addition, a process has been set in motion to refocus sector working groups and to establish the Humanitarian Country Team in Southern Sudan in line with the Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) guidelines.

POOLED FUNDS IN 2009:

Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF)

(as of 18 December 2009)

At Southern Sudan level, CHF 2009 allocated \$44,652,329 compared to \$53,984,745 in CHF 2008. There were three rounds of allocation and the CHF Emergency reserve. Up to 78 percent of the funds allocated were through the CHF first round allocation in March 2009, 13 percent through the second round in September and 3 percent through the third round in November. A further 5 percent of the funds were allocated through the CHF Emergency reserve. A total of 65 projects were funded, 55 of them in the CHF 2009. The health and nutrition sector was the highest funded sector with 34 percent of the total allocation which benefitted 47 projects.

Emergency Response Fund (ERF)

(as of 8 December 2009)

The total amount allocated by the Emergency Response Fund was \$1,048,696. This funded 10 projects. The highest funded sector was Health and Nutrition with 63 percent of the total allocation which benefitted four projects, followed by Non-Food Items & Emergency Shelter which took up 19 percent and funded four projects.

Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)

The total amount allocated was \$13,099,093. There were two rounds of application - one covering the response to LRA attacks and the other one to support the Emergency Action Plan launched in August to address the emerging food insecurity. In all, 13 projects were funded. The highest funded sector was Food Security and Livelihoods with 53 percent followed by the Health and Nutrition sector with 11 percent.

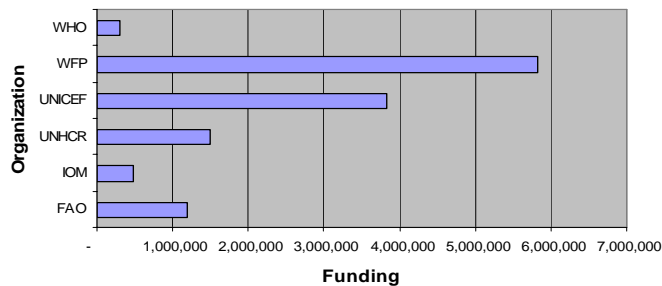
Comparison of Southern Sudan 2009 and 2008 CHF Allocations by Sector

Sector	2009 CHF Allocation		2008 CHF Allocation	
	Amount	% of 2009 CHF	Amount	% of 2008 CHF
Health and Nutrition	\$15,171,600	34%	\$14,646,409	27%
Food Security and Livelihoods	\$11,100,000	25%	\$5,608,550	10%
Water and Sanitation	\$4,773,229	11%	\$7,461,297	14%
NFIs and Emergency Shelter	\$3,935,000	9%	\$2,750,000	5%
Education and Culture	\$3,568,500	8%	\$6,639,418	12%
Common Services and Coordination	\$2,650,000	6%	\$5,975,613	11%
Cross Sector Support for Returns	\$2,500,000	6%	\$4,492,550	8%
Basic Infrastructure	\$954,000	2%	\$2,605,908	5%
Protection and Human Rights	\$0	0%	\$2,975,000	6%
Mine Action	\$0	0%	\$350,000	1%
Governance and Rule of Law	\$0	0%	\$480,000	1%
DDR	\$0	0%	\$0	0%
Total	\$44,652,329	100%	\$53,984,745	100%

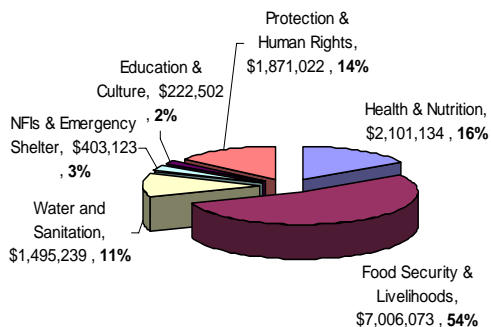
CERF Allocations by Type

LRA Response - April 2009	\$4,978,615
Emergency Action Plan - Nov 2009	\$8,120,478
Total	\$13,099,093

CERF Funding By Agency in 2009



CERF Funded Sectors 2009



LOOKING AHEAD – PRIORITIES FOR 2010

Despite being over-stretched, under-resourced and working under enormous capacity and funding constraints, the humanitarian community were able to address many of the most critical needs in 2009 emerging from the deteriorating security and humanitarian context. Humanitarian preparedness and response capacity, however, varies across the ten states, increasing the need for ensuring well-coordinated and targeted responses based on assessed needs of the most vulnerable populations. Insecurity is believed continue in the lead-up to the elections and referendum resulting in large-scale displacement similar to those in 2009 or even higher. In accordance with the prevailing situation and “most likely” planning scenario, partners in Southern Sudan have agreed to focus on the following four over-arching priorities:

- Be prepared for emergencies by ensuring that core essential pipelines are in place—food, nutrition, vaccination, seeds and tools and non-food items— and that sufficient “nutrition capacity” is on stand-by;
- Save lives by delivering, through air-bridges if necessary, essential emergency assistance to displaced and vulnerable populations;
- Maintain and, if possible, expand the existing safety-net by mobilizing resources for the NGOs and agencies providing front-line services;
- Help the most vulnerable households from slipping further into crisis by maintaining and, if possible, expanding school feeding and introducing cash transfer programmes.

[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.

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