



Weekly Bulletin Humanitarian Action in Southern Sudan Week 13, 30 March – 04 April 2008

SUMMARY/HIGHLIGHTS

- ✚ 91,000 households from all states are receiving seeds and tools ahead of rain season, FAO.
- ✚ Joint Plan brought 13,556 Sudanese home since January 2008 – up from 12,076 in the previous week.
- ✚ Returnees from South Kordofan and Khartoum finally arrived in Rumbek.
- ✚ Yei acute watery diarrhea outbreak – 194 cases and 5 deaths as at 2 April.

I. FOCUS ON STABILITY AND SECURITY

Warrab – According to the South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SSRRC), about 300 households were displaced due to intra-tribal conflict in Warrab during the week. About seven people died while 17 were wounded. The internally displaced persons (IDPs) are currently staying in Alek County (North East Gogrial).

Upper Nile - Four cattle rustlers were captured by local police and JIU soldiers near Mamathajak, east of Malakal town on 30 March.

Further investigation is being conducted by the police. Cattle raids are intensifying across the state and in the outskirts of Malakal. The SPLA has

started disarmament programmes in the Khorfulus area and surrounding areas. A number of weapons were looted by community members during recent fighting in the Khorfulus and that has contributed to increased cattle raids.

South Kordofan and Khartoum - The UN/IOM organized returnees who had been stranded in Kadugli for security reasons, as reported in the previous bulletin, arrived safely in Rumbek on 5 April 2008. WFP, FAO and Church Ecumenical Action in Sudan [CEAS] dispatched reinsertion packages namely, three months' food rations, tools and implements and mosquitoes nets, respectively.

II. CURRENT ISSUES

- UNMIS/RRR in Bor monitored the movement of the barge along the Khartoum/Bor route with 400 returnees heading to Eastern Equatoria State. The barge, which finally arrived at Bor on 2 April, is yet to depart to Juba because of the failure of the pusher dispatched from Juba to move the three barges at once. IOM is considering altering the mode of movement from river to overland. There is no clear date when this will take place although 7th or 8th April have been suggested.
- SSRRC reported armed attacks in Tombe area in Terekeka County. According to the affected community, the attack which took place on March 27 was perpetuated by the Dinka Bor and Dinka Alliap. Six Mundari tribesmen were reported dead and 600 heads of cattle raided by the attackers. Properties were also reported to have been looted and several houses burnt down. The affected communities were reported to have moved towards Bori and Muni area in Terekeka. The total number of those affected has not been verified, but the SSRRC in Terekeka estimates that about 12,500 people were affected.

III. POPULATION MOVEMENTS AND RETURNS

IDPs, Returns & Reintegration (from UNMIS/RRR, UNICEF)

Joint Organized Return Plan - The total number of individuals returned under the Joint Plan since January 2008 has risen to 13,556 – up from 12,076 last week. The Joint Plan is coordinated and implemented by the Government of National Unity (GoNU), the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS), the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) and IOM.

During this week, 980 individuals (250 households) were transported from Khartoum to Upper Nile,

219 individuals (67 households) were transported from South Darfur to Northern Bahr el Ghazal, and 345 individuals (160 households) from Equatoria to Jonglei.

The ADRA/IOM team in Kostit reported a total of 698 individuals (124 households) passing through the transit hub in spontaneous movements between 28 March to 3 April, representing significant increase by 81.7% from last week's figures. The

main destinations were Upper Nile and South Kordofan.

ADRA/IOM's Kosti team reported a total of 2,000 individuals from Khartoum to Abyei (*some under the organized return programme by GoSS*).

Western Bahr el Ghazal - Convoy (WBEG 2) organized by IOM arrived at Kosti way station on Saturday 5 April with 700 individuals (143 households). It had left Khartoum (Omdurman El Salam Departure Centre) after seven days of waiting for security clearance.

Eastern Equatoria - UNMIS/RRR held a bilateral meeting with SSRRC to discuss the issue of IDPs in Nimule who so far refused repatriation to Jonglei state despite having indicated that they would return there during the survey of intentions. The Deputy Director of SSRRC acknowledged the potential security threat of this refusal to leave, noting that the host communities are getting impatient with the IDPs. Some refugees have pegged their return on the movement of the IDPs, because some of them were reportedly occupying lands belonging to the refugees. The issue has been referred to GoSS for immediate intervention.

Northern Bahr el Ghazal - Convoy SD8/31 March carrying 219 IDPs returned safely from South Darfur to NBeG. Within NBeG, convoys were escorted by IOM, RRR, State police, UNMOs and UN Police.

Unity State - It is reported that so far a total of 2,128 government organized returnees have been moved from Khartoum to Unity State. The numbers of people are broken down as follows: Ruweng County (751), Panyijar County (283), Rubkona County (394), Leer County (350) and Mayiendit County (350).

Upper Nile - On 3 April, a convoy of 916 individuals (250 households) arrived in Bunj centre in Mabaan Country. These returnees were welcomed

by the county commissioner and local authorities at the IDP reception centre. Relief International / WFP distributed three months food rations upon arrival of the IDPs. UNMIS/RRR accompanied the convoy from Paloich and coordinated the reception of these returnees. RRR also coordinated with the County Commissioner and WFP to distribute food among 302 state organized returnees and who needed to vacate the reception center to accommodate the joint UN/ government organized returnees.

According to SSRRC Melut County received 1,038 individuals (193 households) from Senar, Umjer and Kenana on 16 March 2008. The returnees were temporarily accommodated at school premises. The county has given them plots of land north-west of the Melut hospital. SSRRC secretary has requested MedAir for the non-food items (NFIs).

ADRA has completed the construction of Nasser way station. Nassir way station is currently under-utilized. Therefore, UNHCR and ADRA are discussing how to best utilize the way station for alternative use, with the caveat that a certain portion should be reserved for receiving returnees as and when required.

Warrab - On 30 March, a convoy of 42 vehicles with 1,621 households on board arrived in Twic County, Warrap state. UNMIS/RRR noted with concern that the state organized returnees were only offered three cartons of biscuits per truck as transit rations but no food or NFI provided to them. The state government is not able to offer any assistance to the returnees citing the lack of information from higher committee and lack of food stocks in the county. UNMIS/RRR coordinated with WFP to ensure the returnees were assisted with food. On 1 April, WFP office in Juba agreed to offer three months ration to these returnees.

Refugees, Returns and Re-integration (from UNHCR)

- During the reporting week, 5,492 refugee returnees reached home, the *highest* weekly record since the beginning of the returns operation. Of these, 3,823 returnees came from Uganda, 421 from Kenya and 1,248 from Ethiopia.
- The third convoy of 639 refugees from Sherkole Camp in Ethiopia returned to Mabaan County in Upper Nile on the 31st of March. The convoy passed through Kurmuk corridor in Blue Nile before entering Upper Nile. The convoy was received in Mabaan by the County Commissioner, SSRRC, SPLA/JIU and SAF/JIU Commanders, Police Commander, religious leaders, Paramount chiefs and UNHCR. All returnees received the standard food and NFI packages.
- With the impending onset of the rainy season, returnees are aggressively demanding their overdue distribution of seeds and tools in Eastern Equatoria, and an urgent response is needed to prevent conflict in the communities.

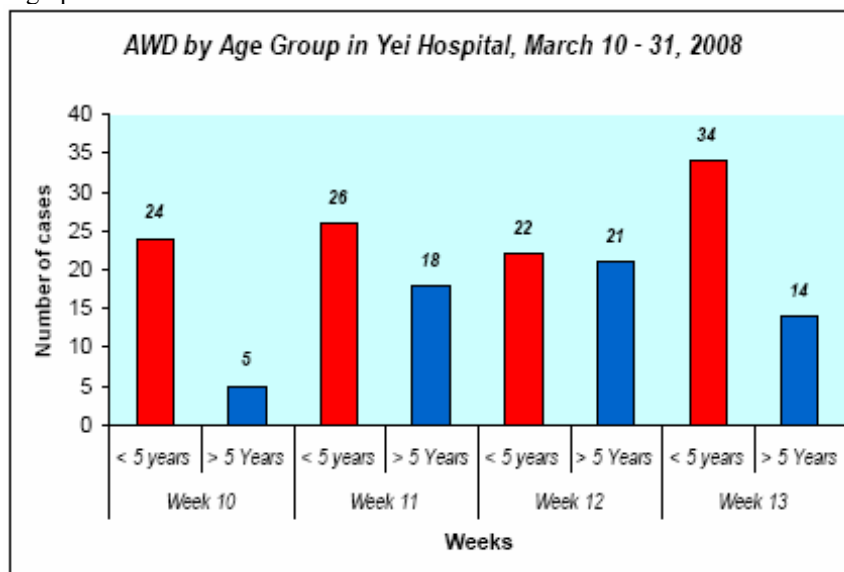
IV. SITUATION, NEEDS AND RESPONSE BY SECTOR

Coordination and Common Services (*from UNMIS/RRR.*)

- On 2 April, RRR, SSRRC and World Vision International (WVI) held a Coordination Meeting to plan the implementation of Seeds and Tools Distribution (Cfr. WR_WES080324-30). According to WVI, tools are already on the ground, while FAO confirmed the arrival of the Seeds by next Monday 7th of April 2008. Pending final selection of targeted beneficiaries and tailoring the schedule with Census Operations, the partners agreed on starting Distributions during the following two weeks.

Disease outbreaks (*from WHO and OCHA EP&R*)

- Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) Outbreak Update in Yei - From Week 10 until 2 April 2008, the total cumulative cases had reached 194, with 5 cumulative deaths and a case fatality rate (CFR) of 2.57%. Of these cases, 60% are children under five years and 40% are adults. Five stool samples tested positive for cholera using cholera rapid test, and another 12 stool samples have been sent to AMREF Laboratory in Nairobi for confirmation and results are expected in a few days. The average admission per day was eight cases, and cases have been increasing since week 10 as shown in the graph below.



The average length of time between the date of onset and hospital consultation is one day.

Epicenter of the outbreak included Mahad, H. Tache, Wulituri and Kanjoro locations. The peak of the outbreak was between 27th March – 1st April 2008. Initial assessment was done by WHO in close collaboration with MoH on March 27th – 30th.

MoH officials are taking the overall coordination of the outbreak response with the support of UN partners and they visited Yei town on 3rd April. WHO has provided one diarrhea kit (sufficient for 100 severe cholera cases plus 400 moderate cholera cases and 100 adults) to Yei and additional medical supplies were shipped on 3rd April. Between 31st March and 2nd April, 30 new cases were reported from Yei Hospital. OCHA and RCO sub-offices are coordinating the implementing partners in both health and water and sanitation issues with assistance of UNICEF. Currently WASH partners SSDO, PSI and AAH-I are responding through POU chlorination, hygiene promotion activities and borehole maintenance, with material support from UNICEF. In health MSF-Swiss are on ground supporting the NPA Civil hospital in case management, and Medair will be assisting in case finding and surveillance. In both cases health and watsan partners will be applying to OCHA for additional Emergency Response Fund support.

- AWD/Cholera preparation in Juba – Due to the close proximity with the Yei outbreak the MoH led EPR taskforce are focusing on preparedness in the county, with support from partners.

Health (*from UNICEF, UNHCR*)

- UNICEF completed the first round Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) acceleration campaign, which reached reaching more than 500 children below one year of age and also reached 409 women with TT3 in Yambio and Nzara Counties of Western Equatoria.

- First round Polio NIDS results show that a total number of 175,626 (99%) children under five years old were vaccinated against a target of 168,775 (95%).
- In Kajo Keji County in Central Equatoria, stakeholders agreed to erect giant sign boards at strategic locations throughout the county. The boards are intended to transmit clear messages on the prevention and response to HIV & AIDS as a way to promote behaviour change communication. Additionally, UNHCR procured and distributed medical kits and equipments under the IGAD project for Mundari Civil Hospital, to IMC who is managing the hospital.

Child Protection/DDR (from UNICEF)

- The tracing of the 42 children associated with fighting forces registered early this month in Khorfulus County is under process coordinated by the State DDR and IRW who are the lead agency in Upper Nile for family tracing and data base management in Upper Nile State.

Nutrition (from UNICEF)

- UNICEF supported a five day training on minimum nutrition package (growth monitoring and promotion, protection, promotion and supporting exclusive package breastfeeding and complimentary feeding practices) for 35 health workers from Western Equatoria
- Two hundred cartons of nutritional paste (pie nuts) were delivered to Aweil from Wau for distribution by NGO partners MSF-France and ACF-France.

Water and Sanitation (from UNICEF)

- Thirty-six hand pumps were disinfected with chlorine granules in Yambio County to provide access to safe water sources to 18,000 people.
- Four hand pumps in Yambio County and three hand pumps in Nzara County were repaired to re-establishing access to safe water to 3,500 people.

Education (from UNICEF)

- The teacher verification exercise supported was successfully completed in Western Equatoria State and the forms have been brought to Juba for compilation.
- UNICEF has completed the construction of two community Girls' Schools in Ezo County and Tambura, Western Equatoria.
- UNICEF distributed 658 cartons of exercise books and 824 cartons of students' and teachers' kits to 33 schools in Wau North and Wau South Payams of Wau County.
- In Unity state(Leer, Mayendit, Rubkona, Koch and Guit Counties), UNICEF distributed 72,006 metric tonnes of students' kits, 56,075 metric tonnes of teachers' kits and 91,482 metric tonnes of Exercise books to 117 schools with combined enrollments of 72,906 pupils and 877 teachers.

Mine Action (from UNMAO, RCO)

- Three children were injured when a hand grenade exploded on 28th of March 2008 in the southern sector of Malakal town, Upper Nile State. The three children are currently undergoing treatment in the local hospital. The UNMIS Cambodian Military Demining Company was redeployed this week between Doleib Hill and Khorflus following their withdrawal the previous week due to fighting involving cattle raiders and SSPS. UNMAO are moving assets to Mabaan and the team is expected to start their work by the middle of April

Governance (from UNHCR)

- In conjunction with UNDP Rule of Law, UNHCR distributed "NO MOB JUSTICE" posters designed to create awareness among stakeholders, agencies and government departments.

Food Security (from Southern Sudan Food Security Update, March 2008)

- Seeds and tools distribution - FAO through the Emergency Coordinating Unit (ECU) and the implementing partners are currently distributing to 91,000 households various types of seeds amounting to 15Kg per household. The seeds include sorghum, maize, groundnuts, sesame, cowpeas and millet. The distribution will cover all States in Southern Sudan with Northern Bahr El Ghazal having the highest number of beneficiaries of about 20,000 households followed by Eastern Equatoria,

Western Equatoria and Warap with around 10,000 beneficiaries each. Vegetable seed and fishing equipment has also been distributed to flood affected communities. To support local production and motivate the producers, FAO will purchase about 460 MT of seed locally in Yei, Torit, Yambio, Kwajok, Rumbek, Aweil, Wau, Bentiu and Malakal. The 91,000 households will be also provided with four pieces of tools and these include a maloda, a hoe, a sickle and a panga. This will bring the total number of tools distributed to 364,000 pieces. Five thousand pieces of maloda tools are expected to be manufactured locally in Malakal.

During the month of February 2008, FAO distributed a total of 139 pieces of hand tools (hoes, pangas, malodas, rakes, pick axes, sickles, shovels and wheel barrows) to dry season vegetable growers in Wau town. They also distributed 10,520 Kgs of assorted vegetables and 1,932 pieces of different tools to various farmer groups in the Eastern Equatoria State to promote the initiative. A one-off food intervention to vulnerable households is necessary to safeguard the seeds that are being distributed from consumption.

V. ASSESSEMENTS AND MISSIONS

- Inter-agency verification and assessment mission - On 4 April, UNMIS/RRR led an assessment to Kit One in Lobonok payam (120 km from Juba). The mission which comprised RRR, WFP, SSRRC and the Payam authorities verified (96 households) 156 spontaneous returnees that have returned to Kit One since January 2008. Most of the returnees came from Uganda, Nimule and Juba. The mission was a follow up on the field trip that was organized on March 28. Plans for intervention will be organized after agreement with other return partners next week.
- Jonglie assessment findings - From 28 March to 2 April, an interagency team comprised of UNMIS/RRR, WFP, UNHCR and SSRRC conducted an assessment mission to Pajut Payam in Duk County. The mission was intended to gather current information on the spontaneous returnees with a view to better understand the numbers involved, services available and issues facing returnees and the receiving communities. The assessment findings included:
 - Returnees claimed to be facing lack of food, water and adequate shelter.
 - No significant security threats were reported apart from some tension with the Murle particularly in Pageleng and Kachtong Bomas.
 - A total 1,753 persons from 678 households were verified in all three Bomas out of which; 822 individuals had spontaneously returned to Pajut; 554 individuals to Pagaleng and 377 individuals to Kachtong. The majority of returnees numbering 1,425 persons originated from IDPs settlements in Malakal, Khartoum, Khorfulus and the Eastern equatorial State, and 328 persons came from Kakuma Refugees camp in Kenya. The level of services and assistance available in all the Payams of return are at minimum, nonetheless, will help in the sustainability of early reintegration prospects especially in Pajut Centre.
- Repatriation from Juba to Kudo Payam - Following reports that about 500 IDPs in Juba are requesting to be repatriated to Kudo Payam, UNMIS/RRR and SSRRC conducted an assessment mission to some of the bomas in the payam (55 km west of Torit). The payam comprise five bomas with 21 villages and an estimated population of 25,983. Most of the villages are currently accessible but this could change in the wet season. Reintegration services are limited but the payam has the capacity to absorb the caseload as earlier returnees have settled in the communities without difficulties.

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