



Humanitarian Action in Southern Sudan Report Week 35, 24 – 30 August 2009

SUMMARY/HIGHLIGHTS

- ✚ Humanitarian access is getting increasingly restricted by insecurity and rains (*Section I*)
- ✚ Preliminary results of a GoSS/FAO led crop assessment confirm food insecurity (*Section IV*)

I. FOCUS ON HUMANITARIAN ACCESS AND SECURITY

Access: In the recent months, rains have made most of the poor road infrastructure and tracks impassable. On 24 August, commercial trucks transporting food for WFP were stuck between Manybol and Gumuruk in Jonglei State due to bad road conditions. The three trucks were eventually rescued but IOM trucks transporting NFI kits to Pibor returned back to Juba as they could not continue due to very bad road conditions. Tribal fighting has caused death, injury and displacement of civilians in many areas of Southern Sudan including Twic East and Akobo Counties (Jonglei State) and Tonj Counties (Warrap State). Attacks by the Lord's Resistance Army rebels have made Ezo County and other parts of Western Equatoria State inaccessible. As a result of the above factors transportation and humanitarian access to most parts of Southern Sudan remain the biggest challenges, according to the humanitarian community. Commercial boats were confirmed to be reaching Akobo, Jonglei State via the Sobat River Corridor in the last few weeks. Following recommendations of a UN security assessment concluded on 21 August, the World Food Programme is expected to dispatch a convoy of barges with food aid to Akobo along the Sobat River during week ending 4th September. Although the corridor remains at Security Level 3, WFP has been allowed to send a convoy without escort but following the guidance of the security assessment mission. If sustained, the opening up of the Sobat Corridor will go a long way to alleviate hunger in Akobo and surrounding areas and to reduce costs otherwise incurred through expensive air operations. The Sobat Corridor is a major route for humanitarian cargo to most parts of Upper Nile and Jonglei States, especially during the rainy season.

Jonglei State: The overall security situation in the state remains tense following the attack on civilians, including women and children in Liith Payam, Twic East County on 28 August. Forty-two people were killed and 64 were wounded during the fighting. The numbers of people that were displaced are not verified though believed to be in their thousands. The Southern Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SSRRC) is continuing with registration of the displaced people. The latest attack further exposes a worrying trend whereby women and children seem to be intentionally targeted – a change in the traditional cattle raids pattern. Tribal clashes and cattle raids are usual minimal during the rainy season – May to November. However, the delay in the rains in some parts of the state has facilitated accessibility for cattle raids and inter-tribal clashes.

Western Equatoria State: Presence of the LRA rebels in most parts of the state has restricted humanitarian access to the thousands of IDPs and refugees located in several locations including Ezo, Tambura and Source Yubo. On 26 August, a team of relief workers from UHCR, WFP, WVI and OCHA had to abort a mission intended to provide food aid to refugees and IDPs in Tambura and Source Yubo after two large groups of LRA rebels were reported to be moving towards Source Yubo. A security and humanitarian assessment mission under UNMIS Force Protection will be deployed to Ezo on 02 September. Among other things, the mission will

determine whether humanitarian staff could be redeployed to Ezo after the 13 August evacuation to Yambio.

[Sources: RCSO, OCHA]

II. CURRENT ISSUES

See Section I above.

[Source:]

III. POPULATION MOVEMENTS

Refugees, Returns and Re-integration

- **Correction:** No refugees were relocated from Ezo to Makpandu Refugee Settlement during Week 34 as mentioned in last report. However, some of the Congolese refugees currently residing in Makpandu settlement were relocated from the border sites such as Sakure, Gangura and James Diko earlier this year with the assistance of UNHCR.

[Source: UNHCR]

IV. SITUATION, NEEDS AND RESPONSE BY SECTOR

Coordination and Common Services

- OCHA, RCSO and UNMIS (Human Rights, Child Protection and RRR) carried out a rapid assessment in Twic East County, Jonglei State to verify the humanitarian situation on the ground following the fighting that took place on 28 August. Initial evidence indicates that the attack was huge and well planned, according to Twic East County Commissioner. The assessment team has recommended a comprehensive inter-agency assessment to determine the actual numbers of IDPs and their humanitarian needs.

[Source: OCHA]

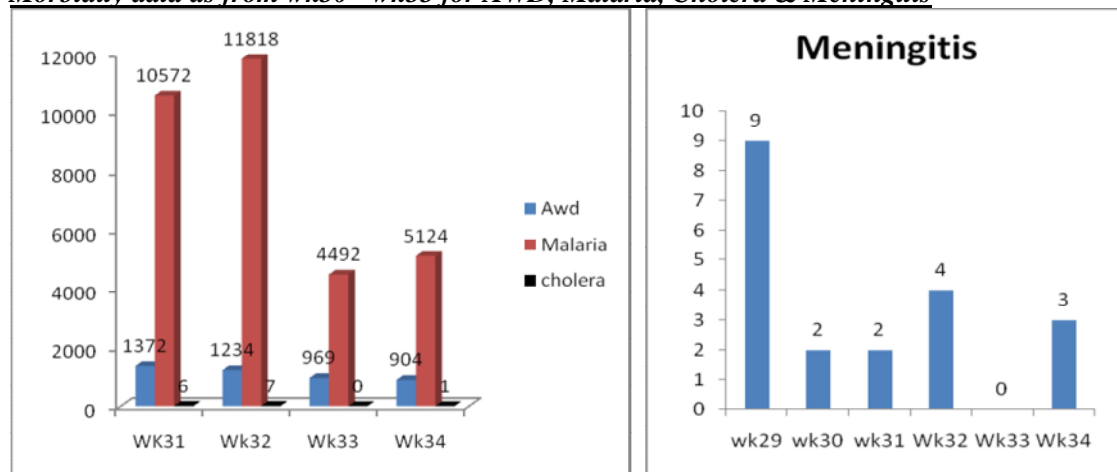
Disease Outbreaks

Ministry of Health/GOSS Communicable Diseases Surveillance & Response Weekly Report

	Cholera	AWD	ABD	Men	Measles	AJS	Malaria	AFP	NT
Cases (Week 34)	1	904	404	3	1	2	5124	0	1
Cumulative Cases 2009	267	31837	71496	229	85	133	140095	1	27

AWD (Acute Watery Diarrhoea), ABD (Acute Bloody Diarrhoea), Men (Meningitis), AJS (Acute Jaundice Syndrome), AFP (Acute Flaccid Paralysis), NT (Neonatal Tetanus)

Morbidity data as from wk30 - wk33 for AWD, Malaria, Cholera & Meningitis



- The health sector had raised concern over high numbers of Malaria cases that kept rising for three consecutive weeks 30 – 32. Central Equatoria State recorded the highest cases compared to the other states. Week 30 recorded 6,897 cases compared to weeks 31 and 32 cases shown on the above graph. Weeks 33 and 34 have recorded lower numbers of Malaria cases compared to week 30 after the number of cases peaked at 11,818 in week 32. The decrease in the number of cases can be ascribed to both preventive measures and poor reporting of cases.

[Source: MoH/GoSS]

Nutrition

- The State ministry of Health in Torit, with UNICEF support, delivered three cartons of nutritional paste (plumpy nut) to Kapoeta South, Eastern Equatoria State for 75 malnourished children.

[Source: UNICEF]

Food Aid

- WFP assisted 124,130 with 1,865mt of food in Southern Sudan during the reporting week. These included 18,000 school children who received 130mt of food for hot meals as well as take-home rations for girls. In Jonglei, WFP distributed 456 non-food items to three schools in Bor County for use by 450 pupils when taking the daily hot-meal in school.
- WFP dispatched 1,500mt of food by barge from Kosti to Malakal, including some of it destined for Akobo and Pochalla to complement the ongoing air deliveries targeting 20,000 IDPs affected by inter-tribal conflicts. To date, a total of 776mt out of the planned 1,114mt of food has been air-delivered, while the airlift has been affected by frequent aircraft technical problems.

[Source: WFP]

Food Security and Sustainable Livelihoods

- Meteorological authorities forecast a 45% probability that Southern Sudan will receive above normal rainfall from September to December 2009. If the heavy rains come towards the end of the season, floods are feared to occur in Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Warrap and Jonglei States. According to a Rapid Crop Assessment Mission fielded by the GoSS from 10–21 August 2009, crops will be destroyed completely if they get flooded before maturity.
- Preliminary results of the Rapid Crop Assessment Mission confirmed that the main cereal crop harvest will be below normal in 2009. Maize is likely to experience 50-60% failure while sorghum may fail by 30-40%. Should there be floods, crop failures will be worse with maize experiencing 60-80% crop failure, while sorghum will be 40-50%. A comprehensive Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM) has been recommended to take place in November 2009 to get more accurate statistics on agricultural production.
- The assessment mission also confirmed that food insecurity is worse in six out of the ten states — Northern Bahr el-Ghazal, Warrap, Upper Nile, Jonglei, Eastern Equatoria and Unity.

[Source: FAO]

Water and Sanitation

- Forty plastic slabs were dispatched by UNICEF to IOM in Tambura to support construction of sanitation facilities to benefit IDPs within the Namutina Payam community in Western Equatoria State. The facilities will provide safe excreta disposal for an estimated 300 households.

- UNICEF delivered water, sanitation and hygiene emergency supplies including 3,000 plastic buckets, 88 plastic slabs, 10 bags of Aluminum Sulphate, one drum of Chlorine and 3 cartons of Chlorine tablets to Akobo in Jonglei State. Distribution will be carried out by Nile Hope Development Foundation (NHDF).

[Source: UNICEF]

Protection

- Three children formerly abducted by the LRA, two girls (16 and 17 years) and one boy (20 years) that were rescued by the Uganda People's Defense Forces (UPDF) on 19th August 2009, were handed over to the Ministry of Social Development, Western Equatoria State. With support from UNICEF, the State Ministry of Social Development provided accommodation and psychosocial support to the children.
- UNICEF supported partner IPCS to carry out a rapid assessment of the situation of children affected by armed conflict mainly LRA atrocities in Southern Sudan. The results will be used as a basis for psychosocial and reintegration activities in Tore Payam, Morobo and Lainya counties of Central Equatorial State.

[Source: UNICEF]

Mine Action

- On 26th August, CHORM, with support from UNICEF, conducted an awareness and sensitization workshop for 44 children (20 girls and 24 boys) who are part of children's clubs in Obel town, Upper Nile State. The objective was to train children to pass the message landmine risk to the rest of the children in the club.

[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