



Southern Sudan – Abyei Displacement
OCHA Situation Report No. 27
Reporting Period 30th August – 05 September 2008

SITUATION

Background

- Armed conflict broke out in Abyei Town on 13th and 14th May 2008. The conflict displaced approximately 50,000 people. The displaced people fled from Abyei Town going southwards to the areas of Abatok, Awal, Wunpeth, Malual Alio and Agok along the North – South border areas and downwards into Twic County in Warrap State. A small number went to Aweil East in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State and Bentiu in Unity State. The displaced people moved into households of relatives and friends, leading to 40,000 more people from the host communities being vulnerable. The humanitarian community is responding to the situation on the basis of the numbers above. WFP beneficiary lists up to 30th June 2008 confirmed 72,300 people affected by the crisis. This number includes both IDPs and affected host communities.
- The tension in Abyei was diffused through a road map agreement that among other things ensured withdrawal of combatants. These were replaced by a new Joint Integrated Unit force and a police force. It also allowed free movement of UN military observers and most importantly, the installation of a new administration. Return of displaced persons to Abyei town and its surroundings was the last stage of the road map agreement. To date, the return of civilians has reportedly been taking place at a small scale and without clear trends. The UN and partners plan to assist organized return of IDPs once displaced population becomes more comfortable with security arrangements in Abyei and when the rain season ends towards the end of 2008.

Recent Developments – Security and Humanitarian Access

- The Chief and Deputy Administrators have been sworn in by the President of the Sudan, His Excellency Omar al-Bashir.
- The UN Mine Action team is in Abyei to carry out assessments and address the issue of Unexploded Ordinances (UXOs). A Mine Risk Education team will soon be deployed to Abyei.
- A Mine Action Committee has been formed by UNMIS and UN Mine Action. The committee will set the priorities and constantly review the task requests handed by organizations in Abyei.
- The UN anticipates that at least 10,000 of the 50,000 people may return to Abyei over the rainy season, while the remaining majority group is expected to return in the early dry-season.
- Poor road conditions and network, lack of NGO premises and limited UN accommodation in Abyei have the combined effect of slowing down the reestablishment of agencies in Abyei while undermining provision of humanitarian support to people in need.
- Reconstruction and early recovery activities are set to begin once donors release the US\$10 million that UN and NGOs have appealed for.
- Since most compounds for humanitarian agencies were also destroyed, the UN has appealed for \$2 million and NGOs \$1.5 million to re-establish presence in Abyei Town,.

MISSIONS

- The New Chief Administrator for Abyei visited Agok on 03 September on a tour of duty expected to last for a few days.

COORDINATION

- Teams composed of OCHA, Resident Coordinator's Support Office, UNMIS and UNJLC are facilitating coordination of humanitarian activities among partners involved in the Abyei response. The teams are based in Agok, Turalei and Juba. A schedule of coordination meetings is outlined below.



SECTOR / MEETING	FREQUENCY	DATE(S) / Day(s)	TIME	VENUE/PLACE
Return and Reintegration Working Group	TBA	TBA	TBA	Abyei
General Coordination	Weekly	Mondays & Thursdays	16 00H / 17 00H	Mercy Corps Compound, Agok
General Coordination	Bi-Weekly	Mondays	14 00H	Turalei
Abyei Emergency Taskforce	Every 2 Weeks	Wednesday 17 September 2008	14 00H	SSRRC, Riverside, Juba
Water and Sanitation	Weekly	Saturdays	17 00H	Mercy Corps Compound, Agok
Health	Weekly	Fridays	16 00H	Mercy Corps Compound, Agok

(Humanitarian Actors in this Sector are: OCHA, RCO, SSRRC, UNDSS, UNMIS, UNJLC)

LOGISTICS

- Staff accommodation remains a challenge and deployments to Agok should be coordinated with the Mercy Corps camp management.
- Accessibility of many areas hosting people displaced from Abyei is increasingly becoming limited due to rains.
- All agencies planning to send cargo (relief supplies) to the areas affected by the Abyei conflict in the south should liaise with UNJLC in order to jointly coordinate the delivery of cargo and maximize available tonnage space.

(Humanitarian Actors in this Sector are: UNJLC, IOM, OCHA, UNICEF, Mercy Corps)

INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

Water and Sanitation

- The installation of a hand pump for the new borehole drilled in the nearly completed settlement of Titac was accomplished during the week.
- Expansion of latrine construction project is underway to include new vulnerable areas like Agok market and small IDP settlements along the road Agok – Juol Jok.
- Further requests from communities to support more latrines are currently being looked into.
- Planning for a new borehole north of Juol Jok is ongoing, completing the water plans for all presently accessible areas of Agok.
- After the rainy season the now inaccessible locations of Rumkur, Malual Aleo and Mabuin north, will receive support for already planned water points.
- Rehabilitation of one water yard in Abyei town has been completed, which means that there are now two functional yards in the town.
- Procured supplies required for rehabilitation of the remaining 4 water yards in Abyei town are expected to arrive shortly.
- Out of the 18 hand pumps in Abyei town and surroundings (within approx a 2 km radius), 3 remain to be rehabilitated and 1 which is partially functional needs repairing.
- The major constraint for construction/rehabilitation of water points, apart from the bad road conditions complicating availability of supplies, is the lack of qualified technicians and senior staff. Although funding exists, the problem of attracting qualified southern professional is persistent.
- The water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector has reached over 72,000 people in Agok, Twic and Abyei areas with 5 – 10 litres per person per day of safe potable water through tankering, hand-pump schemes and motorized systems. Water purification sachets are being distributed. Eight mini water yards were established by UNICEF in Agok.
- Over 75 emergency latrine facilities benefiting 3,500 people have been put in place. Hygiene and sanitation promotion sessions ongoing in 10 IDP villages.



(Humanitarian Actors in this Sector are: ADRA, ICRC, Save the Children US, MSF Switzerland, GOAL, Mercy Corps, ACAD, WARD, Ministry of Health and UNICEF as sector lead)

Food Aid

- Last week WFP carried out general food distributions in Abathok, Agok town, airstrip and Mabuin. Total food distributed amounted to 272 MT, which reached 18,130 beneficiaries.
- Road conditions permitting, WFP will attempt to distribute food north of the river to specific villages in the vicinity of Awolnum.
- GoSS has shipped 20 MT of food over the past two weeks into Abyei.
- A major constraint hampering future food support is the poor condition of roads, which makes some areas totally inaccessible.
- At the peak of the response to Abyei displacements on 30th June 2008, WFP and partners had assisted 72,300 people with 1,227MT of assorted food commodities. Food aid interventions towards people affected by the Abyei crisis started on May 17th. The numbers above cover IDPs and affected host communities from Abyei, Warrab, Northern Bahr el Ghazal (NBEG) and Unity States that are affected by IDP influx.

(Humanitarian Actors in this Sector are: World Vision, Save the Children USA, Mercy Corps and WFP as sector lead)

Food Security and Livelihoods

- 2 grinding mills were completed in Juol Jok and Mading Jukthiang. Management committee and operations training for the grinding mills was done during the week
- The 13 communities, mainly involving women's groups are continuing to operate vegetable gardens: seeds have planted and are germinated (ie growing). However pest attacks have recently been discovered and search/procuring of pesticides is being looked into.
- The bakery support programme to 13 existing bakeries is ongoing with the primary aim of increasing quantities and improved quality bread to the populations of 7 locations. In Agok town area only, 5 bakeries are receiving support.
- 14 groups of women and men have been supported in bread making small business
- 15 communities have started vegetable gardens while 2,900 people have received vegetable seeds.
- 3,000 households have benefited from seeds and tools distribution.

(Humanitarian Actors in this Sector are: FAO, Mercy Corps, ACAD, NDO, WARDS and ASOA)

Protection

- During the reporting period, 22 new cases of separated children were identified in Agok market. They are now registered and verification is ongoing for possible family tracing and reunification. In the meantime these children have been incorporated into the Youth Club's daily activities. This brings to 324 the cumulative number of children registered to be missing, unaccompanied or separated since the beginning of the tracing and reunification operation in mid-May. Out of the 302, 200 have been reunified and 124 are yet to be accounted for.
- Two Youth clubs have been formed in Juol Jok and Abathok. They were provided with a recreation facility and psycho-social support. Youth committees of 10 members each have been established for the clubs. Training on youth needs identification and support entitled 'Journey of Life' – a package provided by Save the Children USA was conducted for the Juol Jok committee (6 women and 2 men).

(Humanitarian Actors in this Sector are: UNMIS, UNICEF, SSRRC/GoSS, SC-USA, Department of Social Welfare in Agok)

Health and Nutrition

- MSF Switzerland this week started working on a compound in Abyei town with plans to run a total of five mobile clinics in the area. A small clinic is already operational periodically in Abyei town, apart from the earlier established mobile unit placed near the Banton bridge.
- The lack of a lead agency presence in Agok/Abyei has been highlighted as a concern by sector participants.

(Humanitarian Actors in this Sector are: Goal, Ministry of Health, MSF-Switzerland, ADRA, SSRRC, and UNICEF, WHO as sector lead)



Return and Reintegration

- Generally, the people are slowly coming into the outskirts of Abyei. Some are doing minor repairs on their tukuls. However, the rains are hampering this activity. Distribution of the plastic sheeting would be helpful and UNMIS/RRR and SSRRC are ready to jointly do the targeting of beneficiaries.
- About 4,000 persons are usually present in Abyei town especially during the day at the two major market areas in the town. GOAL will soon assess requirements for them to go back to their compound. Plans for other INGOs are not yet known.
- UNMIS/RRR is reinforcing staffing and has worked on modalities for registration of returnees at the destination point. Training of enumerators on how to undertake this registration will be done in the next two weeks.
- The first Return and Reintegration Working Group meeting since the fighting in May took place in Abyei on Monday 01 September 2008. The meeting was hosted by UNMIS/RRR. The meeting was attended by INGOs, UNMIS and other UN agencies. Next meeting is tentatively scheduled to take place in mid September.
- The road from the north of Abyei at Todaj (15 km north), through Abyei town south to Agok (approximately 35 km south) has become passable only by 4x4 vehicles. The road requires significant repairs. Currently, more than six large lorries are stuck 5-6 km north of town en route to deliver food aid and other supplies to Abyei. The road to the south is arguably worse. The GOSS is currently repairing Agok airstrip, after which it is thought the contractors might be retained to perform essential repairs to the southern road, without which return would be difficult.

(Humanitarian Actors in this Sector are: UNMIS/RRR, IOM, UNRC/CSO, OCHA)

Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs)

- The Mercy Corps shelter programme has completed 190 shelters (tukuls) in four target areas of Titak (50), Wauchin (40), Mading Jokthiang (80) and Awal (20). Total target number of tukuls to be completed is 400 and the expected date of completion has now been extended to end of September.
- Norwegians People's Aid have moved NFIs for 6,400 households to Abyei. The items include fishing equipment, seeds, tools and plastic sheeting. In addition, 5 rub halls have been put in place.

(Humanitarian Actors in this Sector are: ACF-USA, Caritas, Concern, CSI-USA, Goal, ICRC, IOM, Mercy Corps, MSF-Swiss, SC-USA, SSRRC, UNICEF, WARDS, WFP, World Vision, and UNJLC as sector lead)

Education

- Assessment of 'safe schools environment' is ongoing with Abathok and Deng'mithyang already covered. Assessments seek to ensure the quality of the physical environment, the school construction and other facilities like classrooms, desks, water & sanitation and other materials.
- A rapid assessment of general sector status and school infrastructure was carried out in Abyei during the reporting period.
- Construction of 3 child friendly spaces next to schools is ongoing in Juol Jok, Agok and Abathok. These will cater for approximately 500 children, running both morning and afternoon sessions. Teachers are volunteers from the community youth clubs, having received training from Save the Children US.
- 25 kits (playing and reading materials) for the above activities are distributed and handled by the volunteer teachers.

(Humanitarian Actors in this Sector are: UNICEF, GoSS/MoEST, SCF-UK, Norwegian Refugee Council, World Vision, ADRA, Concern, IAS)

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