



**Southern Sudan – Abyei Displacement  
OCHA Situation Report No. 28  
Reporting Period 06<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> September 2008**

## **SITUATION**

### **Background**

- Approximately 50,000 people were displaced when armed conflict broke out in Abyei Town on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> May 2008. 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 registered a total number 72,300 people affected by the crisis. This number includes both IDPs and affected host communities that needed food aid.
- 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 October 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 beginning end of October.

## **MISSIONS**

- The new administrator for Abyei visited Agok on 03 - 04 September 2008 and addressed the humanitarian community during a meeting hosted at the Mercy Corps compound in Juol Jok. He appreciated the efforts of the humanitarian agencies present in his area and committed that he would appoint a full administration by mid-September. The meeting was also attended by an ECHO delegation that was on mission at the same time.

## **COORDINATION**

- A team composed of OCHA, Resident Coordinator's Support Office, UNMIS and UNJLC are facilitating coordination of humanitarian activities among partners involved in the Abyei emergency response. The teams are based at the Mercy Corps compound in Jol Jok just outside Agok centre and in 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
Abyei Emergency Taskforce	Every 2 Weeks	Wednesday 17 September 2008	14 00H	SSRRC, Riverside, Juba

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

## LOGISTICS

- The following logistics information was compiled by UNJLC. However due caution and discretion should be exercised when using the facilities described below. Questions and requests for support should be sent to [sudan.juba@unjlc.org](mailto:sudan.juba@unjlc.org).
  - Roads & Bridges
    - Wau to Agok road is passable but several stretches are very rough. It is not advisable to use the road after rains.
    - Agok to Abyei road is very poor and accessible only with 4x4 vehicles.
    - Wunrok Bridge – requires repair, however the current diversion around the bridge is passable.
  - Airstrips
    - Wunrok Airstrip – is in relatively good condition. Aircraft landing regularly. (WFP, 06/09)
    - Agok Airstrip – is being rehabilitated. Approximately 800m have been completed with another 200m under construction. UNDSS was the first to land on the rehabilitated strip on 05 and 11 September. The airport is not yet open to other aircraft as construction work is still ongoing though expected to complete soon.
    - Turalei Airstrip – conditions are considered good with minor vegetation growth.
  - Fuel
    - Fuel is available in the Agok market. Vendors advised that it is sourced from Khartoum and Bentiu. Fuel is sold in 20 litre jerry cans, which are always not completely full. Diesel costs 2 SDG and petrol 6 SDG per litre.
    - *Note: Prices are based on three diesel and one petrol vendor. (UNJLC, 28/08)*
- Staff accommodation remains a challenge and deployments to Agok should be coordinated with the Mercy Corps camp management.

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

## INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

### Water and Sanitation

- Some members of the WASH sector concern over the likely challenges that the community members will face once the motorized boreholes in Agok are handed over to them. Fuel costs and maintaining generators once they break down will be difficult. It is recommended that the boreholes be converted to manual mode before they are handed over.
- During the week under review, the functional water yards in Agok were crowded due to high water demand as one generator powering another water yard was broken down.
- Water quality testing was completed at 30 water points.
- Within the past three weeks a total of 30 hand pumps have been installed in various locations.
- Trainings for six water committees handling mini water yards were conducted.
- 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. Ten latrines were completed during the week.



- 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. Eight mini water yards were established by UNICEF and partners in Agok.
- Over 90 emergency latrine facilities benefiting 3,500 people have been put in place. Hygiene and sanitation promotion sessions are 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**

- No food distributions have taken place during the reporting period. Preparations for next round of food distributions are ongoing.
- At the peak of the response to Abyei displacements on 30<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup>. 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**

- In support of activities to promote food security and sustainable livelihoods, 1,200 rakes and 1,600 hoes were delivered to the Ministry of Agriculture. The tools will be used in vegetable gardening activities and targeting of beneficiaries will be done in due course.
- An estimated 90 % of the IDP population did not plant this season for various reasons including insecurity.
- The little agricultural activities are being hampered by agricultural pests and persistent water logging as well as localised flooding in some areas.
- Cattle are increasingly being moved to north of the river Kiir with additional herds coming into Abyei area from Warrap State as cattle herders flee water logged and flooded pasturelands.
- Community dialogues with nomadic at cattle herders at cattle camps have been initiated by FAO in order to raise awareness regarding vaccinations and to identify other concerns. The movement of livestock creates difficulties in determining vaccination coverage.
- 14 groups of women and men are being 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)*

### **Health and Nutrition**

- MSF Switzerland is setting up five mobile clinics north of the river Kiir while Goal runs three static clinics to the south. Two of the MSF operated clinics are already operational on an intermittent basis.
- MSF-CH is currently re-establishing presence in Abyei town.
- Health promotion activities are ongoing in communities in the vicinity of clinics.
- Main areas of concern remain to be lack of presence of sector lead, local capacity of the Ministry of Health, lack of cholera preparedness and difficult referral process due to the lack of a referral hospital.

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



### **Return and Reintegration**

- According to UNMIS, as of the first week of September approximately 4,000 persons were in Abyei with another 10,000 in surrounding villages. Of the latter, almost half had remained in the area during the clashes in May. The other half are returnees from south of the River Kiir. Most notably, the town market has expanded.
- According to an intention survey carried out by UNMIS/RRR, RCO and other partners to determine the number of IDPs wishing to return to Abyei from Northern Bahr el Ghazal, only one percent of those interviewed expressed a desire to return soon. About 69% of the IDPs do not have any intention of returning at the moment. In addition to security concerns in Abyei, 36% of the IDPs have acquired land for shelter and cultivation as a result of kinship ties in both Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Warrap, while 10 percent would like to stay until the end of the school year. Another 9% of the sample intends to relocate to Warrap, specifically to Turalei in Twic County, which lies closer to Abyei. 20% of the IDPs remain undecided due to lack of adequate information on the security situation and future recovery prospects for Abyei. Overall, findings indicate that while IDPs continue to monitor security developments in Abyei, all categories of respondents prefer to stay in their present areas of displacement until such a time when a general improvement in the situation becomes apparent.

*(Humanitarian Actors in this Sector are: UNMIS/RRR, IOM, UNRCSO, 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**

- Three out of 13 planned emergency classroom tents for the area of Agok have been put in place in Juol Jok. Special efforts are being made to respond to needs of children that were following the Arabic school system and curriculum before being displaced to Agok, where the English school system applies.
- NFI items to provide for temporary classrooms and establishing a boarding school in Abyei have been handed over to the educational authorities. Items include plastic sheeting, blankets and sleeping mats.

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

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**Disclaimer:** This report is a consolidation of information from OCHA field reports, UN agencies, NGOs, GoSS-SSRRC and other humanitarian partners. The report is subject to availability of data and does not claim to be exhaustive or fully verified and does not represent the official position of the United Nations. If you have inputs for the next edition, or questions/comments to the current issue, please contact: [maputseni@un.org](mailto:maputseni@un.org)