



**Southern Sudan – Abyei Displacement
OCHA Situation Report No. 30
September 25th, 2008**

This is the last issue of the Abyei Situation Report!

NOTICE BOARD

- ✚ **Notice 1:** The Abyei Displacement Situation Report has been phased out. From now on, Abyei related humanitarian issues affecting Southern Sudan will be reported in the weekly Humanitarian Action in Southern Sudan report.
- ✚ **Notice 2:** The time for SSRRC chaired fortnightly Abyei Emergency Taskforce meeting has been changed to 3pm. The next meeting will be on 01 October 2008 in the SSRRC Boardroom, Riverside, Juba.

SITUATION

Background

- Approximately 50,000 people were displaced when armed conflict broke out in Abyei Town on 13th and 14th 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 are planning to assist organized return of IDPs once the displaced population becomes more comfortable with security arrangements in Abyei and when the rain season ends towards the end of October 2008.
- OCHA and humanitarian partners started to issue daily situation reports from 20 May to mid-June and weekly thereafter until 25th September 2008.

Recent Developments – Security and Humanitarian Access

- The Chief and Deputy Administrators were sworn in by the President of the Sudan, His Excellency Omar al-Bashir at the end of August. Appointment of the council and cabinet to make up the full Abyei administration is still pending.
- Deployments of other new security forces like the police force are reportedly still ongoing.
- The UN Mine Action team is clearing Unexploded Ordnances (UXOs) in Abyei town.
- 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.

COORDINATION

- The UN Resident Coordinator's Support Office and UNOCHA are facilitating coordination of humanitarian activities among partners involved in the Abyei emergency response. Regular coordination meetings take place at the Mercy Corps compound in Jol Jok just outside Agok centre and in Juba.



LOGISTICS

- UNJLC continues to support the humanitarian community with logistics coordination and information management services. Questions and requests related to Abyei or to Sudan in general should be directed to: sudan.juba@unjlc.org.
- **Turalei airstrip:** There is a persistent swamp in the middle of the airstrip, rendering half the runway 'No-Go'. UNHAS requests that agencies on the ground compact the earth and extend the length of the runway. UNHAS will continue to land, but only with a restricted payload until maintenance is completed.
- **Agok airstrip:** Rehabilitation is ongoing and 1200 meters of the airstrip have been completed. Work has been put on hold until after the *Eid El Fitr* holiday, when an additional 800 meters will be added to comply with international standards. Additionally, the airstrip is unfenced, making it difficult to clear prior to landing. Despite this, UNDSS continues to land once every week since 05 September 2008. UNHAS has not surveyed the airstrip yet for possible inclusion in their schedule.
- **Cargo Movement Coordination:** UNJLC is coordinating the delivery of a South African donation of various non-food items, including tents, intended for the Abyei displaced persons. The transportation is being carried out by IOM.
- **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

- Through out the humanitarian response to the needs of IDPs from Abyei in Agok, Jol Jok, Turalei and other areas, the water and sanitation has provided the following support so far;
 - 16 boreholes were drilled (15 fitted with hand pumps and 1 with motorized system) and 6 boreholes that had been fitted with hand pumps were upgraded to mini water yards in order to accommodate increased need. These facilities together benefited over 17,000 people mainly in Agok.
 - Over 30 hand pumps were rehabilitated.
 - Over 150 M³ of water were transported to an IDP village for about a month following the displacement benefiting about 350 people.
 - Water quality testing was conducted for 30 water points that were approved for domestic use.
 - Water containers and soap were distributed to over 6,500 families – about 32,000 people.
 - Water purification tablets were distributed to about 750 people and 21 volunteers were trained on water purification with intent to train communities in turn.
 - Hygiene and sanitation promotion sessions were set up and are ongoing in 10 IDP villages
 - About 113 emergency latrines constructed in IDP villages - benefited over 4,500 people
- Overall, the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector reached over 72,000 people in Agok, Twic and Abyei areas with the various types of assistance.
- Some members of the WASH sector however have expressed 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.

(Humanitarian Actors in this Sector are: Save the Children USA, GOAL, ACAD, WARDS and UNICEF)



Food Aid

- An additional 2,500 IDPs were registered in the vicinity of Agok area over the past week. Many of these IDPs recently returned to the area from Warrap, Unity and NBEG states. These newly registered IDPs will be included in the current distribution round.
- Approximately 100mt were distributed under the Food for Recovery programme. This is the final round of distribution for vulnerable residents working on shelter construction and vegetable gardening projects implemented by Mercy Corps.
- The current round of General Food Distributions (GFD) has been postponed by approximately ten days as commodities have been delayed due to a combined effect of insecurity in Kharassana, lack of transport capacity, and extremely poor road conditions in the area of operation. Efforts are underway to speed up delivery of commodities to distribution points.
- 10mt was distributed to Agok area schools to encourage resident and IDP school enrolment and attendance.
- 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 18th. 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: Save the Children USA and WFP)

Food Security and Livelihoods

- 600 head of cattle was vaccinated against two diseases – Anthrax and BQ. The livestock vaccination operation is on-going.
- 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.
- Over 3,000 households have benefited from seeds and tools distribution.

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

Child Protection

- To date, UNICEF and the Social Welfare Office for Abyei have registered a cumulative total of 317 vulnerable, separated, unaccompanied or missing children following displacement from Abyei Town in mid-May. Of these 212 have been reunified and 105 are yet to be reunified. These 105 also include newly registered unaccompanied street children in Anet market/Abyei area.
- Family training and reunification is ongoing in coordination with Social Welfare Officers for Abyei in NBeG and Muglad.
- Local knowledge of linking names to respective ethnic groups and understanding of the geographical distribution of the ethnic groups is helping the tracing and re-unification process. However, some outlying villages are inaccessible due to impassable roads – a common problem during the rainy season in Southern Sudan. These constraints make the tracing operation so time consuming.
- Foster families for street children have been selected by OSWA with support from the community leader in the area.
- More Child Friendly Spaces are under construction in Agok centre, Joul Jok and Abathok.

(Humanitarian Actors in this Sector are: UNICEF, Office of Social Welfare for Abyei Area, SC-USA)

Health and Nutrition

- Health activities by Goal south of the River Kiir are carried out in close coordination with MSF Switzerland (MSF CH) which operates mainly north of the river as well as with the Ministry of Health (MoH). Both Goal and MSF are operating from Juol Jok around the Agok area south of the river.



- South of the river, MSF CH is running five Ambulatory Therapeutic Feeding Programmes (ATFP) in Agok, Waucin, Abatok, Malual Aleu, Awalnom, and Abiemnom and one Intensive Therapeutic Feeding Centre (ITFC).
- Goal is operating two static clinics southe of the River Kiir.
- Three doctors from MoH are working in the area. Support with drugs and ambulance services is needed.

(Humanitarian Actors in this Sector are: Goal, Ministry of Health, MSF-Switzerland, ADRA)

Return and Reintegration

- As of mid-September, the estimated population back in Abyei Town remained slightly below 5,000 people. Unconfirmed reports and assessment findings indicate that up to 9,000 more people are back in surrounding villages. Of the latter group, almost half had remained in area during the clashes. (UNMIS/RRR) The figures represent a slight increase from August figures, most likely because UNMAO teams are visibly active with mine clearing and the new administration is not yet fully established in town.

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

Emergency Shelter

- 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.
- Targeting and selection of beneficiaries have however caused delays of programme delivery. The success factors of the shelter programme are strong leadership and well functioning community cooperation to mobilize the people for labour and collection of construction materials.

(Humanitarian Actors in this Sector are: Mercy Corps, Goal, SSRRC, Unicef)

Education

- Mine Action team is clearing unexploded ordinances (UXOs) from education sites (schools) in Abyei town. UNICEF will start renovation works after the completion of UXO clearance in those sites.

(Humanitarian Actors in this Sector are: UNICEF, Ministry of Education, SCF-US and ADRA)

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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