



**Southern Sudan – Abyei Displacement
OCHA Situation Report No. 26
Reporting Period 23rd – 29th August 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 in 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.

Recent Developments – Security and Humanitarian Access

- The security situation is reported to be calm and stable and without any incidents.
- New administrator and deputy have been appointed but yet to be sworn in. The rest of the staff in the new administration are yet to be appointed. Most security arrangements as outlined in the Road Map have been put in place. A few remaining SAF and SPLA forces are still expected to leave Abyei and Agok areas, respectively.
- Return of the IDPs is currently hindered by the presence of unexploded ordinances (UXOs) and extremely poor road conditions between Agok and Abyei, which are being worsened by the rains. In the meantime, the humanitarian situation in and around Agok remains stable and agencies continue to deliver assistance to displaced persons.
- 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.
- Slowly, the population of Abyei Town seems to be coming back as more displaced people visit the town while some sleep over. However, there are no clear trends in these early returns.
- 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 UNDP Bureau of Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) Abyei Surge Team visited Khartoum, Abyei, Agok and Juba, 26th – 29th August as part of an assessment mission in preparation for recovery interventions to be implemented in Abyei.
- A team from ECHO HQ Sudan Desk and ECHO Sudan Head Office will visit areas south of Abyei and Agok from 3rd – 5th September 2008.



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.
- Schedule of Coordination Meetings;

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 20 August 2008	14 00H	SSRRC, 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

- 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 agencies are requesting UNJLC support to cater for transportation of goods from Khartoum to Agok.
- Staff accommodation remains a challenge and deployments to Agok should be coordinated with the Mercy Corps camp management.
- Construction of the all weather airstrip in Agok is well underway. It is hoped that soon planes will be able to land there. The airstrip is planned to be 1.200 metres long and 30 metres wide. The first 700 m section is aimed to be completed shortly. The airstrip will improve staff and cargo movement.

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



Water and Sanitation

- Six mini water yards south of the river will be upgraded. One borehole has been drilled in the new settlement of Titac to benefit IDPs from Abyei and surrounding areas.
- Hygiene and community health promotion as well as emergency latrine construction in the Agok Market area are ongoing.
- Construction activities may however be delayed by an anticipated shortage of bricks and other materials due to accessibility problems.
- 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

- WFP and WVI assisted 9,500 Abyei IDPs with 135MT of one-month food ration in Aweng, Wunrok and Turalei through general food distribution during the reporting week. Distributions in Wunrok location, where 3,254 IDPs were assisted, was accomplished for the fourth round of distribution. Distributions in other locations in Twic County are ongoing. Other food intervention activities included Food for Recovery (FFR) targeting 1,650 residents in Wunrok and Akok, and Institutional Feeding Programme (IFP) for 40 residents in Akok.
- Some 302MT of food was dispatched to Agok during the reporting week for the fourth round of general food distributions. The planned dispatches amounting to 630MT for the fourth round of a one-month food ration for the Abyei IDPs in Agok covering food needs for September, is scheduled for completion before the end of August.
- During this fourth round of general food distributions, five locations have so far been served with three remaining namely; Abathok, Agok town and Mabuin. A new location north of the river will be served in the coming week. Households from Aganthok, Ninyachuor and other villages to the east of Abyei town will attend a distribution in Awolnom, along the main road between Agok and Abyei north of the river.
- 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.
- Food is distributed at a ration size of 540 grams of mixed commodities (cereals, oil, pulses and salt) per person per day. This is calculated at 2,100 kilocalories per day.

DISTRIBUTIONS TO ABYEI IDPs				
Location	Modality	Bens	TOTAL	Date
Turalei	GFD	5,025	65.9	19-Aug
Aweng	GFD	744	11.26	19-Aug
Wunrok	GFD	434	6.998	21-Aug
Aweng	GFD	477	7.748	21-Aug
Wunrok	GFD	2820	42.8398	22-Aug
TOTAL		9,500	135	



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

Food Security and Livelihoods

- A vaccination campaign for livestock is ongoing in Agok and Abyei.
- A distribution of 2,400 fishing spools is anticipated to finish within the week.
- Training of community animal health workers (60 persons) is planned for September.
- Seeds have been pre-positioned with Ministry of Agriculture for distribution to populations north of the river.
- 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, two new cases of separated children were reported. This brings to 302 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 102 are yet to be accounted for.
- The SSRRC on behalf of the concerned communities, raised the issue of excavated pits in connection to road construction activities, constituting a danger for children especially, as they create deep rain water pools. A community awareness campaign was proposed as a mitigatory measure.
- Eight (8) community child protection monitors and 5 social workers were identified and trained for two days in family tracing and reunification (FTR) at Maluakon and were deployed to carry out FTR activities in Aweil East following the displacement in Abyei. A two-month action plan has been developed targeting areas in which IDPs from Abyei settled and the major markets in Aweil East. Family Tracing and Reunification activities are ongoing in Twic County, Warrap State.

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

Health and Nutrition

- Mobile clinics services have been forced to slow down due to access problems caused by frequent heavy rains, which damaged roads. A slight increase in malaria cases has been recorded at MSF Switzerland clinics.
- Training of vaccinators took place on the 26th and the Tetanus (TT2) vaccination + breastfeeding + hand washing campaign ran from the 27th to the 29th. The campaign targeted about 15,000 in Agok and its surroundings. The intervention was a required 2nd round of the TT campaign that started in June.

(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/RRR, approximately 3,000 persons were in Abyei town as of 20 August, including traders, both Misseriya and Dinka, as well as returnees clearing their tukuls both in the town centre and on the periphery. Though many only come during day and leave at night to villages some eight kilometres to the south, more are beginning to stay overnight in Abyei. It is becoming evident that the rains and the bad road connection from Agok to the north is affecting return.
- 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 with 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/UNRCSO, OCHA)

Non-food items (NFIs)

- On 22 August, South Africa donated humanitarian assistance towards the Abyei emergency comprising 40 tons of non-food items like tents, blankets, mosquito nets, inflatable mattresses and clothes as well as food. The donation was a joint effort between the South African Government and a humanitarian organization based in South Africa, Gift of the Givers Foundation. South Africa is the Chair of the African Union Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Committee on Sudan and therefore supports post conflict reconstruction and development in the country.
- As at 04 July, organizations in the NFI sector had distributed 11,421 kits to a corresponding number of families. Organizations in the NFI sector have mobilized a total of 17,030 NFI kits and distribution continues. The NFIs include commodities like kitchen sets, blankets, sleeping mats, mosquito nets, soap, etc.

(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. For details contact: Thomas.Nyambane@wfp.org)

Education

- Emergency school supplies are being distributed to existing schools to enable them to absorb and retain additional IDP caseloads. A total of 55 school kits were distributed to 13 schools.
- SC/USA education sector is providing logistical support to the department of education in distribution of 6,274 educational materials to 7 schools in Agok area.

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

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